CX
h
9

THE
ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BOMBAY
Town Hall, Bombay.

Digitized with financial assistance from the
Government of Maharashtra
on 18 July, 2018

DECCAN SCENES;

BEING A COMPILATION OF

SELECTIONS OF DESCRIPTIVE NOTICES FROM VARIOUS SOURCES,

OF

REMARKABLE EDIFICES

IN AND ABOUT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF

POONA,

108429

AND

Biographical Notices of Chieftains of the Deccan.

BY

ALEXANDER M. CANTRELL.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

Bombay:

PRINTED AT THE

EDUCATION SOCIETY'S PRESS, BYCULLA.

1864.

00108429

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	1
HONORABLE MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE	3
THE CAPITAL OF THE PEISHWAS (*illustration*)	7
JOONA-WARRA	12
BOODHWAR WARRA	16
WISRAM BAGH	*ib.*
PARBUTTEE HILL	17
THE WANNOREE PALACE (*illustration*)	18
TOWER OF SILENCE (DOKHMA)	19
THE SUNGUM*	21
THE JAMSETJEE BUND	22
HILL FORT OF SINGHUR	25
HILL FORT OF POORUNDHUR	27
THE CAVES OF BEIRÀ (*illustration*)	31
THE CAVES OF BAJAH	*ib.*
THE TEMPLE OF KARLEE	32
KHANDALLA (*illustration*)	33
CORIGAUM	35

ADDENDUM.

BARRAMUTTYKUR JOSHEE	43
DABHARREH (SENAPUTTY)	*ib.*
DHEWDHUR	44
FURKIA	*ib.*
KOONJUR	45
LIMMYE	46
MANKESHWUR	*ib.*
PEISHWA	47
PETTHY	48
A GENEALOGICAL TREE OF THE PEISHWAS	49
POORUNDHURREH	51

* The Compiler regrets to observe that the illustration of the View of the Sungum is unavoidably omitted.

INTRODUCTION.

THE following pages lay no claim to originality of composition, the descriptions being simply a compilation, made chiefly of select extracts culled from various sources, and curtailed or amplified, as appeared necessary, according to latest information. As they are considered to possess sufficient interest to afford the reader an agreeable pastime, a few lithographed illustrations, copied from photographs of some of the objects described, are added thereto, in the hope of rendering them alike gratifying to the mind as well as to the sight. The Memoir of the late lamented Honorable Mountstuart Elphinstone, which heads these Descriptions, consists of extracts from the memoirs of that statesman by the late Dr. Buist, LL.D., and the Rev. Dr. Wilson, dove-tailed together. It is here re-produced, because, among those who have most zealously employed their leisure and learning in the Indian public service, the "illustrious departed" will ever rank high in the estimation of all who have the ability to appreciate his labours; and because it was during *his* Residentship at the Court of the Peishwa, and under *his* able direction, that the conquest of the Deccan was accomplished.

An Addendum, comprising a biography of the principal Maratha families and chieftains, whose seats of residence and estates are in Poona, is likewise appended.

With these, with his essay by way of prefatory remarks, the compiler of these descriptive [illegible]ap at Kirkee, [illegible]ffidence, places his unpretending volume before the public, who[illegible] the [illegible]usts will accord to it their patronage.

BOMBAY, *January* 1864.

The Honorable Mountstuart Elphinstone.

The Honorable Mountstuart Elphinstone, a scion of a noble Scottish family,* entered the Bengal Civil Service in 1798, and was early distinguished for the assiduity and ardour with which he devoted himself to business; for his extensive and varied attainments in Oriental literature; but, above all, for the uprightness of his conduct, and the amiable gentleness and benevolence of his disposition. In the year 1808, when the British Government in India resolved on despatching an embassy into Eastern Affghanistan, with the view of obtaining information as to the geography of the country, the character and dispositions of the people, and the probability of a hostile demonstration in this direction on the part, or at the instigation of France being likely to annoy us, Mr. Elphinstone was appointed Ambassador. In 1810 Mr. Elphinstone was appointed as chief political officer in the Deccan, where great events were then on the eve of development. A more delicate or difficult post than that of Resident at the Court of the Peishwa could scarcely have been found, and no man could have filled it with greater ability than Mr. Elphinstone. The conduct of this Chief had been for some time wavering and suspicious, and in the end of 1817 it became so alarming, that the Resident requested the assistance of the troops then engaged North of the Godavery under Brigadier Smith. On the 5th November, the Peishwa threatened the Residency at the Sungum, which it was found necessary to abandon, and Mr. Elphinstone, with his escort, crossed the river, and then re-crossed at the British camp at Kirkee by the bridge close by. The battle of Kirkee, which gave the death-blow to the Maratha power, and placed the Deccan in our hands, almost immediately followed. The task which succeeded was an arduous one: arrangements had to be made for the future guidance of a vast tract of country as wide as those under which it had hitherto been governed. While the Peishwa himself deserved no mercy at our hands, it was resolved that the sovereign, dethroned and imprisoned by his own minister, should be restored to his hereditary dominions, and the Rajah of Sattara, to whom the Deccan had for a time belonged, was placed in possession of

* He was the fourth son of the eleventh Baron Elphinstone, by Anne, daughter of the third Lord Ruthven, and was born in 1779.

the noble principality from which his title was derived; and here, but for his own folly, his dynasty might still have been supreme. All these matters were arranged by Mr. Elphinstone with a wisdom, humanity, and regard for right and justice not to be surpassed. When all these things were fully arranged, and a commission appointed for a time to carry out the plans so ably projected, the Court of Directors resolved to reward one of the ablest of their servants by the greatest boon within their gift—the Governorship of Bombay.

In 1820, when Mr. Elphinstone assumed the Government of Bombay, the dimensions of the presidency had just been tripled: the entire dominions of the Peishwa had, at one fell swoop, been placed under our authority, and minor states were rapidly succumbing to the same power. Mr. Elphinstone had already been ten years Resident in the Deccan: great talents and acquirements, active and powerful in body as in mind, every plain and mountain, every town and village, every tongue and race, within the presidency, had been long familiar to him. He had next to nothing to learn, and had now the power of putting into effect the measures that he had long looked forward to as likely to prove of advantage to the people. Perfectly aware of the absurdity of the idea of a free representative Government in India, Mr. Elphinstone had been accustomed to study the best portions of the best native despotisms in the East, and was bent on, so far as this was practicable, engrafting them on our own. The natives of the country had no aversion to absolute power—none other had they ever seen—and absoluteness, even in the eyes of freemen, was stripped of half its objections by the freedom with which subjects were at all times allowed access to their sovereign. The most exemplary of the rulers we expelled from the land, far better deserved the name of paternal despots than did on many occasions those who followed them. They presided personally over the administration of the laws of the realm; were always ready to listen to complaints of grievance or oppression; received the people frequently in open durbar; and were at all times accessible to them, and shared with them the auspicious as well as the sad observances which domestic joy or affliction called forth.

Mr. Elphinstone was in the forty-first year of his age when, in 1820, he became Governor of Bombay; and being a man of temperate and active habits, and fine natural constitution, was in the very prime of manhood, and in the fullest vigour and health. He was close on six feet high, but a slight stoop made him appear somewhat less tall than he was. With this trivial imperfection as an exception, his figure was a noble one; his countenance, as immortalized by the chisel of Chantrey, was in Nature's most pleasing mould. It was oval and somewhat thin: the lofty forehead, and

deep-seated, calm, reflective eye marking the man of talent. His nose was prominent and slightly aquiline: it was thin, as were his cheeks and lips, —his colour inclining to pale; his skin pure and transparent; his hair was light brown, soft, and silky. His usual expression was that of sweetness, benevolence, placidity, and repose: when excited, his whole countenance lighted up with a glow of warmth; his bright eye gleaming out, and his thin lips becoming compressed, showing, though placid, he was far from inanimate—though usually tranquil, how easily he could be awakened into energy and fire. His hands were soft, white, and beautifully delicate. He was indeed the most distinguished and most popular of the Governors of Bombay, and one of the most able and upright statesman of modern times.

During the seven years, which may well be regarded as the Augustan Age at Bombay, while Mr. Elphinstone ruled, a larger advance was made in the extension of religion, the promotion of native education, and general cause of improvement, than during the quarter of a century which subsequently elapsed.

The history of the magnificent seminary which bears his name, and which was brought into existence in his honour, is too well known to require to be here related. He left Bombay in November 1827, amidst the deep and universal regrets of all classes of the community, followed by the public blessing—the history of his administration engraven on the memory of a grateful people. He returned to Europe by the Red Sea, Thebes, and Alexandria, and the lapse of years had but little, if at all, impaired the estimation of his worth. He had been spared to a green old age, to reap the fruits of his virtues and read his history in a nation's eyes.

Even in his retirement—from which the repeated offers of the Governor-Generalship of India failed to withdraw him—Mr. Elphinstone became the Nestor of Indian politicians; consulted by the Government at home and by its servants abroad in all cases of importance and difficulty. To the unexpected and disastrous events which occurred in India in 1857-58 he directed much attention, and during this most trying period he was a constant counsellor and encourager of his highly-esteemed nephew, John, Lord Elphinstone, the distinguished Governor, and under God, in an important sense, the saviour of this Presidency. It is consistent with the knowledge of his friends that he was decidedly of opinion, after much inquiry and perusal of documents, public and private, that the lamentable rising of the Bengal army had no connection with any deep-laid political conspiracy throughout India.

* Mr. Elphinstone's death occurred on the 20th November 1859, at Hookwood, near Lympsfield, where he had lived in peaceful retirement for several years. Its immediate precursor was a stroke of paralysis, which proved fatal in a few hours, during which he remained in a state of insensibility. His removal

attracted little attention from the general public in England; but it did not fail to be noticed by his numerous Indian friends and admirers, who offered to his memory tributes of affection and respect, with the same affection as those he received when he left the shores of the East, and a statue to his memory has been erected in St. Paul's cathedral. A subscription for his bust was made by the students and ex-students of the college in Bombay which bears his honored name. Many of the Chiefs of the Maratha country expressed their sorrow at the bereavement which, sympathising with the traditional feelings of their families, they understood they had experienced. "We have lost," His Highness the Holkar was heard to say a few weeks after the event occurred, "our friend, and the friend of our country."

The following notice of Mr. Elphinstone's death is from the pen of the party most deeply affected on the occasion, his attached and amiable nephew, Lord Elphinstone. It is from a letter addressed to the Rev. John Wilson, D.D., on the 13th January 1860:—

"I have to thank you for your kind letter of the 6th from Deesa. I feel very grateful to you for the sympathy you express upon the loss I have sustained in my uncle's death. Of all the men I have ever known, I loved and respected him the most. Upon all occasions of difficulty I looked to him for counsel and encouragement. I was in frequent correspondence with him to the last; and I feel that his place can never be supplied. On the other hand, although his death was very sudden, I cannot say that I was surprised at it. When I came out to India, my hopes of seeing him again in this world were very slight. He was then 74; and his health was always delicate. Yet, as years passed away, and as he continued to write to me with his usual vigour and interest in this country, I could not but hope that I should be permitted to see him again; and as the time of my probable return approached, this hope grew stronger. It was with feelings of sorrow and disappointment therefore, rather than of surprise, that I received the account of his death.

"There is indeed much for which I can never be sufficiently thankful. In the first place, that it pleased God to allow my dear uncle to retain the possession of his intellect unimpaired to the last. Of all things, the saddest is to see a great mind in decay; and this trial I have been spared in his case. Then I have every reason to believe that his death, though at the last sudden, did not find him unprepared. He made some slight alterations in his will within a month of his death, and a letter was found with it, addressed to me, in which he begs that his papers may not hastily, or without due reservation, be made over to any one for publication. All his papers were found in the most admirable order; and I have requested that they may be kept exactly as he left them until I return. He has remembered most of his relations and all

CITY OF POONA

his servants in his will; and more than one of his bequests show his delicacy and thoughtfulness towards others. He was indeed one of those who delighted to do good by stealth."

It was the intention of Lord Elphinstone to superintend the publication of his uncle's papers. But, alas! he was destined to be in a few months his companion in the tomb.

The Capital of the Peishwas.

Poona is the city of a province of Hindoostan in Western India, and within the Presidency of Bombay. It is situated in a plain about 2,000 feet above the level of the sea, and was the nominal capital of the Peishwas and of the Maratha empire, situated about 30 miles eastward from the Ghauts, 100 from Bombay, and 75 from the nearest sea-coast. When the Maratha state acquired consequence, disputed the conquests of Aurungzebe, and succeeded in driving the feeble successors of that sovereign from this part of Hindoostan, it became the residence of the Peishwa; the success of Holkar, however, caused the actual seat of the Maratha power to be transferred to the more northern provinces.

Poona is an unfortified and by no means a splendid city. It resembles a huge village, and is apparently better suited for an encampment than for a metropolitan town. In some of the great assemblages of the Maratha confederacy, nearly 500,000 troops are said to have mustered within it and its immediate neighbourhood. Many of the houses are large and built with square blocks of granite. Most of the streets are named after the days of the week and mythological personages, and the members of the Hindoo pantheon are still further noticed by paintings on the exterior of the houses. Thus, as it has been said, the history of the Brahminical deities may be studied while traversing the city. The absence of architectural display may perhaps be accounted for, from the fact that none of the Maratha sovereigns possessed sufficient wealth, accompanied by peace, which might have enabled them to indulge the oriental taste for splendour.

The first mention of Poona in history seems to have been in 1604, when it was granted by the Sultan of Ahmednuggur as a jaghire to Mallojee, the grandfather of Sewajee. In 1663, during the operations conducted against Sewajee, by order of Aurungzebe, the imperial viceroy, Shaista Khan, took possession of this open town, from which, when surprised a few days afterwards by Sewajee, he had great difficulty in making his escape. His son and most of

his guard were cut to pieces, and he himself was wounded: a powerful force, however, almost immediately reinstated the discomfited commander. In 1667, Aurungzebe restored Poona to Sewajee; but under the sway of his successor Sumbhajee, it was occupied by Khan Jehan, an officer of the Padsha. On the Peishwa obtaining the supremacy of the Maratha confederacy, the seat of Government was removed from Sattara to Poona. In 1763, Nizam Ali, of Hydrabad (Deccan), sacked the town and burned such parts of it as were not ransomed. In the struggle between the successive Peishwas and their nominal subordinates, Scindia and Holkar, Poona suffered many vicissitudes, until in 1802, by the provisions of the treaty of Bassein, the Peishwa admitted a British subsidiary force to be stationed there. After Bajee Row Rughoonath,* the *last* of the Peishwas, was deposed, the city became the locality of the British civil establishment, as well as the principal military cantonment in the Deccan.

Nearly half a century has now elapsed since the conquest of the Deccan, and Poona has been since then daily rising in importance. Considerable municipal improvements have been effected in the city by the erection of dwelling houses, shops, temples, &c. and the construction of macadamized roads through all the leading thoroughfares and localities, where formerly existed roads paved unevenly with rough black stone-flags, which during the rains were dangerous alike to pedestrians and equestrians, especially so to the latter, as the horses were very apt to slip and throw their riders. The interest shown by Government for the health and happiness of the inhabitants, by causing these improvements, is compensated somewhat by the inhabitants having erected some excellent edifices, and repaired many old dilapidated buildings—a circumstance quite unusual before—and moreover, in having contributed half the expense for the construction of the "dhurn" or dam, which is generally known as "Null's Dhurn." It is situated in the NW. direction of the city, and is a great public benefit to all located in that part of the city. The old "Luckree Pool," or wooden bridge, which was situated at the West end of the city, and said to have been 200 years old, has been removed, as it was considered useless to repair it any longer, and a new one constructed under the superintendence of the officers of government.

The civil lines and the cantonment of Poona also now wear a most imposing aspect, and are daily improving by the erection of spacious bungalows, uniform hedges enclosing their compounds, good and broad macadamized roads, &c. The number of new shops and other buildings lately erected in

---

*He died a state prisoner on the 28th of January 1851, at the sacred place called Brumhawurt, on the banks of the Ganges, near Cawnpoor.

the Military bazaar, has also contributed much to its improvement, and every building that is now erected has a character for permanency and stability.

Under the head of *improvements*, the Electric Telegraph and the Railway must, of course, be considered as the most remarkable as well as the most beneficial—the former flashing intelligence across the land with the speed of lightning—almost with the speed of thought,

"Wafting a sigh from the Indus to the Pole;"

and the latter annihilating time and space, and rushing through hill and dale with majestic mien to its destined goal.

THE RAILWAY TRAIN.

"Poesy is creation—whoso planned
Railways—the mighty veins and arteries,
And telegraphic wires, the nerves of nations,
And fiery engines rushing o'er the land,
Swifter than flight, or ploughing through the seas,
'Gainst wind, and tide, and elemental strife;
Prometheau spirits, conquering time and space,
And quickening all the pulses of their race,
Throughout one vast organic globe of life,
Made rich by them with wonderful creations,
Such as the opiate fancy never dreamed,
Even Araby—*poets* should be deemed,
If any should; for poetry is 'making'
As well as writing—*to* be seen no less than said.

"Lo! here is poetry—the RAILWAY TRAIN;
First the shrill whistle, then the distant roar,
The ascending cloud of steam, the gleaming brass,
The mighty moving arm; and on amain
The mass comes thundering like an avalanche o'er
The quaking earth; a thousand faces pass—
A moment, and are gone like whirlwind sprites,
Scarce seen; so much the roaring speed benights
All sense and recognition for a while;
A little space, a minute, and a mile,
Then look again, how swift it journeys on—
Away, away, along the horizon
Like drifted cloud to its determined place;
Power, speed, and distance melting into space."

The first snort of the iron-horse was heard in Poona in the month of June A.D. 1858; since which period the road from Khandalla to Poona has fallen into all but complete disuse, although the country carts, &c. still use it occasionally for the conveyance of baggage and merchandize, in

consequence of complaints that these are generally either lost or sadly injured during their conveyance by rail. The phaëtons and mail carts of Pestonjee Sorabjee were therefore no longer required, and were consequently withdrawn, at a loss to their enterprising proprietor of some 12,000 rupees pêr mensem; and the messmen, who were wont to attend to the "creature comforts" of travellers by stages, have also vacated the bungalows on that line—*Othello's occupation being gone!*—leaving them standing in comparative solitude, *in memoriam* of the liberality of the British Government towards the accommodation and comfort of travellers for a period of upwards of 35 years, to tell their own tales!

Several years ago, the local Press persistently suggested the advisability of Poona being made the seat of Government. Many and cogent reasons were adduced in support of this suggestion—the subject in fact was exhausted; but it failed to make the desired impression on the ruling authorities. It would *now* seem, however, that Poona is henceforth to be the seat of the Viceregal residence; the western sea-breeze being too invigorating to be any longer ignored. Bombay will, of course, for a couple of months or so be also cheered with the smiles of Viceroyalty; but it is at Poona where the permanent palace will be erected. The Bombay Government have taken 400 acres of ground as a site for the palace which it is intended to build for the Governor General and the Viceregal Court, and owners of ground in the neighbourhood have been warned not to sell it without the permission of Government.*

From a late report by a military medical officer, the sanitary state of the city of Poona would appear to have been so shamefully neglected by its native inhabitants as to make it literally resemble the Augean stables of old! "Rome was not built in a day;" and as the Municipal Board, which has been lately established, is in working order, it is reasonably to be expected that its exertions towards effecting the necessary improvements must eventually, albeit slowly but *surely*, be productive of the desirable result—yet the unhealthiness of the city cannot concern its outskirts. The spot of ground

* This arrangement had been decided upon prior to the lamented death of the Earl of Elgin, who, had he been spared, intended to come round to this side for the wet season of 1865, by which time the palace, it was hoped, would be ready for his Lordship's reception, and it was attributable undoubtedly to this circumstance, that landed property in Poona rose so considerably in demand, and consequently to so unprecedentedly high a valuation as was never heretofore known. It is now, however, doubtful whether the present Viceroy will consent to the carrying into effect of his late noble predecessor's intention, as regards the erection of the palace and conversion of Poona into the metropolis of India. The land-and-house-selling-and-buying mania has also consequently at the present moment somewhat cooled down.

upon which it is intended to build the new Government house is elevated and deemed suitable, from its airy situation, for the purpose for which it has been selected. The barracks at Ghorpoorie and Kirkee, which are all built on high ground, are healthfully situated, and have the advantage of the sea breeze. On this score, therefore, there can be no valid objection to making Poona what Calcutta now is—the CAPITAL OF INDIA.

Mr. David Sassoon, the wealthiest Israelite merchant of Bombay, has also commenced the erection of a synagogue and an hospital within the civil limits of this station—the former, of course, for the exclusive devotional purposes of his own race; and the latter for the accommodation of patients of all classes generally. This gentleman already owns several dwelling-houses in Poona, and continues, as opportunity offers, to buy up more. In course of time, therefore, the Jewish community, which at present comprises but a few families of the poorer class, will have increased considerably, and thus tend to swell the daily-increasing population of the capital elect of Her Majesty's Indian Empire.

The design for the Sassoon Hospital was executed by Captain Wilkins, of the Public Works Department. The plan and elevation consist of a long range of arcades in two stories, facing the west, relieved, but perhaps scarcely enough, by several projecting blocks of building, the tall gables of which cut through the sky line. The arcaded front of the hospital will face the principal entrance into Poona from Bombay. The road has apparently been turned aside, and will now sweep round the south end of the new buildings, where a square tower rises to the height of a hundred feet. The upper portion of this tower is pierced with lofty lancet lights, and it is roofed by a high saddle back, the pedimented gables of which present clock-faces to the four cardinal points.

The Honorable Mr. Rustomjee Jamsetjee, a younger son of the late Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Baronet, also, it is said, intends erecting a first class hotel in the neighbourhood of the railway station. No doubt the building will be spacious, and will serve to afford comfortable accommodation to all the "upper ten thousand" who may resort to it. In point of architecture, too, considering the name and fame of its intended founder, the hotel will doubtless be all that could be desired. There is one however already near the station, called the "Royal Hotel," kept by a Parsee. It is spacious, well furnished, and has a large and efficient staff of servants; and judging from the number of visitors who resort to it, the accommodation it affords is evidently quite satisfactory.

Joona-warra.

The Joona-warra, or "Old Palace," was one of the principal buildings belonging to the Peishwa, both in respect to extent and grandeur. It was built by Bajee Rao, the grandfather of the last of the Peishwas. The builder was a warrior distinguished for his generalship, and it was from having signalized himself in an undertaking with Shahuraja of Sattara, that he was appointed by him Peishwa of Poona. But however valorous or intrepid he might have been, he did not exhibit any of the Maratha craftiness and cupidity of Sewajee, who alone extended the territory of the Mahârâshtra, and left his successors very few provinces to subdue. When Bajee Rao was erecting this building, and had raised it to the height it originally stood, Shahuraja directed him to discontinue the work, and think of protecting the people under his care, sword in hand, in the field, rather than remain sheltered in a large fortified house, where he would be able to display but little of his valour or enterprise. This rebuke put a stop to a design which, had it been carried out, would have placed this palace in competition with any edifice in India remarkable for altitude and extent. As it stood, it was a building of great magnificence: innumerable and gorgeous were the apartments, and the materials were principally, if not all, of timber, and of a description and size beyond what one can possibly conceive. Each beam is estimated by the natives to have cost five hundred rupees, but as natives delight in exaggeration, we should therefore suppose it to be the medium. More than this it probably did not cost. The outward appearance of it was so grand and imposing, that no one could have mistaken it for any other building than that which best befitted the residence of royalty. A splendid and substantial wall, like that of a fort, environs it, together with two large gates, one facing the north and the other the east. It has also seven bastions equidistant from each other, so that guns might be located thereon, but very much to the detriment of the houses surrounding. It is not too much to suppose that guns were fired from them (though no certain information can be procured), from there having been some light ordnance on the top of the north gate, which has a tolerably wide surface on top, on which was a flag-staff in a centrical position. The building stood six stories high, and the sixth story was called "Gumputtee Mahal," in which the annual festival of that god was celebrated with much illumination, pomp, and grandeur.

A circumstance, not less remarkable than grievous to the inhabitants, happened in this mahal to one Sawaee Madhorow Narrain, Peishwa, a young man of very promising talents. Whilst a few of his statesmen were

in attendance on him when labouring under a paroxysm of fever, he made a rush and leaped through a window upon a cistern below. Such was the force with which he fell, that the pipe of the cistern entered his thigh; and his body was so mangled and disfigured, that the young prince did not survive many minutes after the fatal leap. After the death of his father Narrainrao, many schemes were adopted by several persons to obtain the Peishwaship; but it having been discovered that Gungabye his mother was pregnant, they were all abandoned. But the question yet remained absolutely undecided whether the child would be a male one, on which account they resolved, on pretence of carrying her to a place of safety, to convey her to the fort of Poorandhur—a place about 18 miles from Poona,—so that in the event of its proving to be a female, to substitute a male child. For the furtherance of the design, several Brahmin women in a state of pregnancy are said to have been conveyed into the fort at the same time: it fortunately however happened to be a male child, which prevented all clandestine proceedings. This is a circumstance fresh in the memory of the natives to this day, and they even say that this prince reigned before he was born!

The palace was very lofty; its terraces commanded an excellent view of the whole of Poona, and its adjacent villages and scenes. Parbuttee, when seen from the top of this edifice, appeared of medial height. Its pointed temples, interspersed with trees, a few towering over the buildings on the hill, afforded gratification and delight seldom to be met with amid the monotony of Indian scenery. Kirkee, whose plains and rising grounds are memorable for the associations they conjure up both to Englishmen and Natives, afford an enchanting view when seen from the top of this building. Bhamboorda, a village contiguous to the city of Poona, was distinctly visible with its lofty palmyra and thick groves of bamboo trees, growing at Nature's will, without art or care; and the course of the Moota river, impelling its rapid waters between both places, and forming a junction with the river Moola close by, called by the natives "Sungum," opposite to which a famous statesmen, the Honorable Mountstuart Elphinstone, had his residence during the Poona war. Heerabagh, lying on the SW. side of the city, could be seen to no small advantage. It is situated at the foot of the Parbuttee Hill, and is a spot to which many resort for recreation on native festival days. The advantage of the pure air, unobstructed and uncontaminated by city fumes, and the commanding situation of this edifice, must have been a source of pleasure and enjoyment, without alloy, to those who succeeded in the Peishwaship: and then again, to look around its precincts within the walls, on the great number of fountains which once played, throwing forth their crystal drops on the water, excites feelings of admiration. Admirable

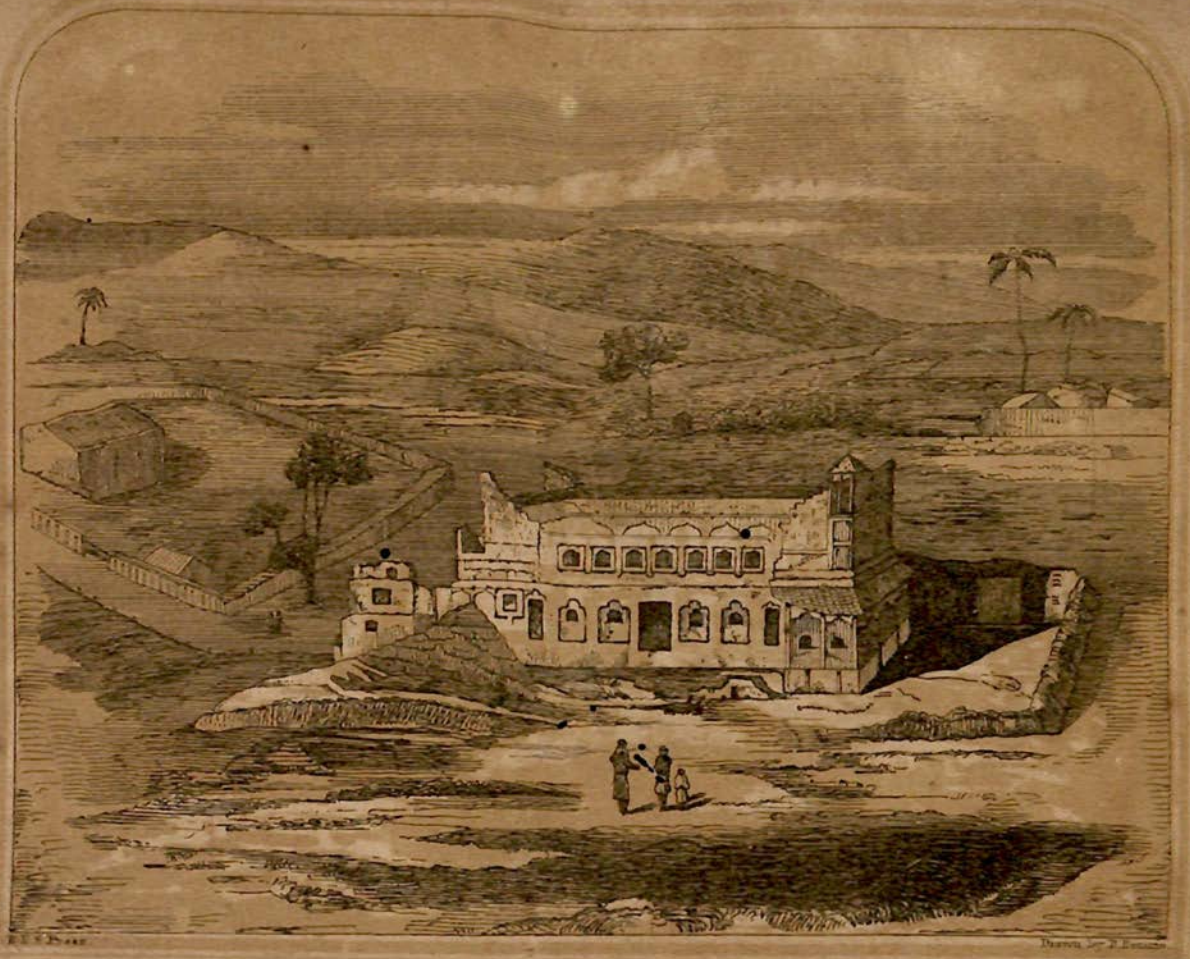
and prepossessing as these scenes were, and some of them still are, could the visitor wish for anything more, than to gratify his desire by being situated on an eminence of this description, and have the advantage of beholding at one view all the prospects around him? How pleasing, how gratifying these must have been to the princely inhabitants of this once truly magnificent palace. Enviable indeed must have been their situation!

All who may peruse this, will doubtless regret that a catastrophe should have occurred which has reduced so magnificent a building to a mere heap of ruins. This palace was consumed by fire in 1827, the conflagration lasting seven days: every possible exertion was made to extinguish the fire, but without avail: very little timber, a few beams of the lower apartments and some of the adjoining offices, where the flames could not extend their ravages, were saved. There are some fragments here and there remaining, which will give the reader a faint idea of its former excellence. The cause which gave rise to the fire is not accurately known; some suppose it to have been done by the prisoners sent to work there, and others attribute it to accident, in having kept some fuel opposite a beam, which took fire. It is generally, however, supposed to have been wilfully done. The natives say it was a visitation from "Eshwur" for depriving Bajeerow of his country and palace! The Government had metamorphosed the place into a civil jail, as being well adapted for the safe custody of prisoners. It was in contemplation to establish a public bazaar, as well as stationing the police, within the precincts of the walls, but the plan was not carried out. In the late improvements made in the city, a room had been erected in each of the bastions, which were originally intended for the different native courts in Poona, but this idea would also appear to have been abandoned, as the apartments were, till lately, occupied by the Revenue Survey and Inam Commission offices.

In the "good old times," probably in consequence of the absence of large and commodious dwelling houses, it was the fashion to give public entertainments in this palace.

The following are accounts of the grand dinners and farewell entertainments which were given to Mr. Elphinstone in it in 1820, which it is hoped will be perused with interest:—

"On the 23rd of September, Major Lushington, C.B., and the officers of the 4th Regiment Madras Cavalry, gave a grand dinner at Poona to the Honorable Mountstuart Elphinstone, in commemoration of the battle of Assaye, in which that corps bore a distinguished part. The toasts cherished the remembrance of many names of high celebrity, as well among absent



THE RUINS OF THE PEISHWA BAJEE ROW'S PALACE AT WANNOREE, POONA.

friends as the guests present. The following is part of the speech with which the chairman coupled the name of the Honorable Mountstuart Elphinstone with the battle of Kirkee :—

"'It may be well supposed, that commemorating the battle of Assaye must be a pleasing occupation, yet how greatly is the pleasure increased, by having on my right hand the companion of the noble Wellington in that arduous struggle. Yes, on this very day, Thursday, 23rd September, sixteen years ago, a specimen was afforded our honourable guest as to what British troops could do, and the recollection of their steadiness and bravery on that eventful day, must have dissipated all vain fears and doubts, if any such ever existed in his mind, as to the result of the perfidious attack of Bajee Row on the small force under the gallant Colonel Burr at Kirkee, on the 5th November 1817, when the character of the Bombay army was nobly upheld under circumstances of a very trying description. Though not bred to arms, Mr. Elphinstone is a good soldier. He deserves that honourable appellation from the service he has seen, and from his gallantry in action; and I am confident you all feel towards him as you do towards those of your own profession, who, from their distinguished conduct in the field, have established claims to our particular regard.'

"On the 12th of October, a splendid entertainment was given to the Honorable Mr. Elphinstone, sole commissioner for conducting the provisional government, by the civil and military gentlemen who had served under him in the Deccan. The entertainment consisted of a dinner, and ball and supper. The ball room was splendidly fitted up in the part of the palace formerly the 'Gunnesh Mahal.'

"Between 50 and 60,000 rupees had been subscribed by the gentlemen of the society in the city of Poona and the territories conquered from the late Peishwa, for the purchase of a service of plate, with the design of presenting it to the Honorable Commissioner, on his qutting the province to assume the Government of Bombay. This was handsomely alluded to by Brigadier General Smith, in proposing Mr. Elphinstone's health, as well as the circumstance which had checked their resolution. Speaking for himself and the other stewards, he said: 'The recent decision, however, of the Governor General, in his reply to the inhabitants of Madras, upon a nearly similar case, though known to us subsequently to the adoption of our intended compliments to Mr. Elphinstone, prevented our proceeding further in that object. It has been suspended, gentlemen, that we might save both parties the pain of his refusal; for with a similar noble and delicate mind, and in deference to such high authority, no doubt seemed to remain, that the commissioner must have

decided as the Governor General had resolved before him. I knew you all too well gentlemen to believe that you could wish to proffer an unmeaning compliment.'

"On the 16th of October, a parting dinner was given by the Poona Turf Club to their President, Mr. Elphinstone, in the same ancient palace of the head of the Maratha confederacy of sovereigns. The members of the club, dressed in the turf uniform, received their distinguished guest at the principal entrance, and conducted him to the Gunnesh Mahal, where the tables were laid. The chair was filled by Captain Tovey, who had the honour to be supported by the gallant Major Staunton."*

Boodhwar Warra.

The Boodhwar Palace, commonly called the "Boodhwar Warra," is the only dwelling house of the Peishwas of any significance worth seeing. When Poona was captured by the British Government, the upper series of apartments on the third story were not completed; they were subsequently finished by Government under the superintendence of the Collector. This palace is three stories high. On the third floor there is a large and handsome terrace for promenading. Had it not been for this, the palace, situated in the heart of the city, and crowded as it is with large houses, would make an uncomfortable residence. One part of the palace is occupied by the Police Office, commonly called the "Furash Khana"; another by the havelly and city mamlutdar's cutcherry. There are four native courts held in it for the adjudication of civil suits: these are, one Suddur Ameen's and three Moonsiffs' Courts. The Intestate Property Office, or Office of the Nazir, also occupies a few rooms of the palace, as also the Government Vernacular School and the Native General Library.

Wisram Bagh.

This was another of the Peishwa's palaces. It was erected for the sole purpose of his retiring thereto from the toils of state for refreshment and relaxation: such, at all events, is the acceptation of the word "Wisshrant,"

---

* The Hero of Corigaum.

from which the word "Wisram" has been given to it. It is now occupied by the Poona College, which institution is continued and supported by Government, under the superintendence of the Educational Department.

Parbuttee.

This hill is dedicated to the tutelary goddess of Poona City, and is situated to the SW. of it. Its minaretted temples, the principal one of which is surmounted by a gilded cupola, interspersed with trees, towering over the buildings on the hill, afford to the beholder gratification and delight seldom to be met with amid the monotony of Indian scenery. The ascent to this hill is by a flight of innumerable stone steps, which, however, are so low and broad, that ascending or descending is a process fatiguing in the extreme. From its summit a superb view of the city of Poona and its environs, and also of the cantonment of Kirkee, is commanded, all appearing like an outspread map below it; and was therefore, it is said, selected by the Peishwa Bajee Rao as his post of observation during the engagement at Kirkee.

About the time of the conquest of the Deccan, a very spacious edifice, which was situated on the verge of the south side of the hill, was struck by lightning and entirely destroyed; the only vestige of it which remains to tell the tale of the melancholy disaster being one single wall! The temples on this hill were erected by Ballajee Bajee Rao, Peishwa, who, after the defeat of his armies at the battle of Panniput, in January A.D. 1761, retraced his steps towards Poona; but his faculties being much impaired, a rapid decay ensued, and he expired at this sacred fane in the month of June following.

At the foot of the hill, to the NE., are the Heera Bagh and Sursa Bagh; between these gardens is a fine spacious tank, with a small artificial island, containing a temple and a few huts in its centre, and surrounded with trees. Heera Bagh was the property of the late Sorabjee Ruttunjee Patell, a Sirdar of the Deccan. It is tastefully laid out, and has a commodious building erected on the verge of, and overlooking, the tank, with a flight of broad steps of hewn stone running down into it. To the N. and SW. are groves of mangoe trees, to the left of which the Moola pursues its onward course. To the S. and SE. also it is surrounded by a mangoe grove, intermixed here and there with the stately tamarind. On this, or the ascent side of the hill, is a small *Waree*, and a spacious quadrangular enclosure, said to have been used, in the palmy days of the Peishwaee

dynasty, as a "Brahmunkondee" or "lock-up" for the horde of Brahmins on the occasion of the distribution of the *Duxina*. This allowance, which is yet continued by the British Government, is now distributed under the superintendence of the Director of Public Instruction; but the recipients are daily becoming less and less from casualties. Government also bestow a fixed annual allowance for the maintenance of the temples and the support of a certain number of Brahmins; and on certain festive occasions, when the temples are all illuminated during the night, the effect at a distance is magnificent and dazzling.

The Wannoree Palace.

A strange interest is attached to the ruins shown in the illustration which faces this description: it represents the remains of one of the palaces of the once celebrated Peishwa Bajee Rao.

The palace is situated near Wannoree, a small hamlet at the south-eastern extremity of the city of Poona. Early in March 1852, this spot had become an object of much attraction to the camp community, in consequence of a rumour, that a discovery of the large amount of five crores of rupees, a sum equivalent to five million pounds sterling, had been made among the ruins.

The report, though exaggerated, was not without some foundation; for it appears that a native, of about sixty years of age, called upon the Superintendent of Bazaars and Police, and offered (on condition of his receiving a reward of two thousand rupees) to point out a spot where, on digging, coins of various descriptions, amounting in all to the enormous sum above stated, would be discovered.

Very little credence was, as may be imagined, given to the native's story; but the earnestness of his manner, and his request that the reward he asked for should only be given him on the supposed "treasure trove" making its appearance, induced the Superintendent of Bazaars and Police to dispatch a party of police peons, under a trusty naique, to take charge of the ruins until proof of the deposit of the treasure be obtained by its discovery on the spot indicated, for the effecting of which some measures had been taken; but nothing in the shape of the circulating medium of the East, or valuables of any kind, was found.

Tower of Silence (Dokhma).

This building, which is intended for the sepulture of Parsees, was erected by Sorabjee Ruttonjee Patel, a Sirdar of the Deccan, and head of the Zoroastrian community of Poona, shortly after the conquest of the country by the British. He died on the 3rd of September 1852, at the advanced age of 69 years, and his remains were deposited in his own "tower of silence." It is situated to the SE. of the city of Poona, on a hill called "Gooltèkree." The form of this building is cylindrical, open at the top, about fifty-five feet in diameter and twenty-five in height, solid up to within five feet of the top, excepting a well, fifteen feet in diameter, in the centre—the part so filled being terraced with a slight declivity towards the well. Two circular grooves, three inches deep, are raised round the well—the first at the distance of four, the second at the distance of ten feet, from the well. Grooves of similar depth and height, and four feet distant from each other, at the outer part of the circle, are carried straight from the wall to the well, communicating with the circular ones, to carry off the water. The tomb by this means is divided into three circles or partitions—the outer for the men, the middle for the women, the inner for children.

The following particulars, with reference to the ceremonies observed on the occasion of the death of a Parsee, both previous to the funeral and subsequent to the consignment of the corpse to the Dokhmâ, will doubtless be read with interest.

When a Parsee dies, his body is immediately washed, taken to the lowest floor, dressed, wrapped in clean but well-washed *old and white* apparel, and laid on one or two stone slabs. By one sect the legs are allowed to remain at their full length; by another they are folded at the knees, as in the position of squatting. The bier-men bring an iron bier, and lay it near the dead body. It is a plain iron bedstead, without a canopy or head and foot rails, standing only about six inches above the ground, and with two long rods on each side to rest on the shoulders of the bearers. The females of the house and acquaintances all seat themselves within doors at a little distance from the body on carpets; but the males of the house and their friends sit outside in the streets, in long rows, on benches provided for the purpose. A number of priests attend and recite prayers on behalf of the dead. Two of them, selected for the occasion, stand at the threshold of the door opposite to the dead body and the bier, and commence reciting the first seven chapters of the Izashne, one of the Parsee religious books. In the midst of his recitation, at a certain part of the prayers, the two priests turn round, the

attendants at the bier place the body on it, and a dog is brought in to have a look at the body. Then the two priests turn towards the body again, and resume their recitation. This over, and the priests having left the door, wailing and crying, which had ceased for the time, recommence. All the male friends of the deceased go to the door, bow down, and raise their hands to their head, previously touching the floor, indicative of their deepest respect for the departed. The body is then placed on the bier, and entirely covered with more clothes. The two attendants at the bier convey it out of the house, holding it low in their hands, and deliver it over to four other bearers outside, the attendants at the bier, as well as the bearers, being all dressed in well-washed, clean, white, but old apparel. All the people present stand up while the body is taken out of the house, and bow to it in respect as it passes by. A procession is then formed by several friends of the deceased, and a number of priests in complete costume, follow the body to the Dokhmâ. Those forming the procession prepare themselves to say prayers on behalf of the dead during the journey, by having previously said their "Kusti" prayers. On arriving at the Dokhmâ, which is generally at some distance out of the town, on an elevated locality on some ridge of a hill, the bier is laid down at a little distance from the gate. Certain prayers are again recited, and the two professional attendants, who had officiated at the house, convey it into the Dokhmâ. The body then is taken from the bier and placed on the stony bed; the sheets are torn from it, and it is laid exposed to be devoured by the vultures, hovering above ready to pounce down upon it. Vultures are purposely brought and retained there.

During the time that the body is being deposited in the Dokhmâ, the people accompanying the funeral continue reciting the prayers for such an occasion, on the conclusion of which they return home.

On the third day after the death, an assemblage of the friends takes place in the afternoon at the house of the deceased, from whence they proceed in a body to the fire temple. In a large hall of the temple carpets are spread, and as many as can be accommodated sit on them. On one side of the hall are placed several trays of flowers and two censers of fire. The priests appointed for the ceremony recite certain prayers, standing opposite to the fire-urns and flowers. After this ceremony is over, the son, or the adopted son of their departed friend, stands stooping before the high priest, who makes him promise the due performance of all the religious duties and obsequies to the deceased. The friends of the deceased then declare or read a list of contributions to the several charities of the place, in memory of the departed, which concludes the "Ooth-mana" (the rising from mourning), as this third day's ceremony is called.

On the fourth day a feast is made, more especially for the priests, and friends are also invited to it. The tenth and thirtieth days, and the first and every succeeding anniversary, have their respective ceremonies, chiefly consisting of prayers repeated before a certain number of flat, round, unleavened cakes of wheat, about four inches in diameter, and one-eighth of an inch thick; with fruit and flowers. At the end of every year certain holidays occur entirely devoted to ceremonies for the dead. An iron frame-work is placed in a clean and white-washed room, and filled up with fruit and flowers. Before the frame, on iron stands, are piled copper or silver pots filled with water, and covered over with flowers. The water is changed at least four times during the holidays, which continue for eighteen days. Prayers are repeated before the iron frame, &c. two or three times a day. These observances are called the ceremonies of the "Mooktads" (the departed souls). The last day of the year and the New Year's day, which are days both of prayer and rejoicing, happen about the middle of these holidays.

The Sungum.

The annexed illustration is a view of the residence of the Judge and Agent for Sirdars, which is situated on the left bank of the Sungum—so termed from the junction which is formed here between the rivers Moota and Moola—of the Wellesley and Railway bridges, and of the pagodas on the right bank. This spot, associated as it is with the events of 1817, was at that period the site of the residence of the British *Chargé d'Affaires*—the Honorable Mountstuart Elphinstone—at the Court of the Peishwa. At that period the Sungum presented to the eye a magnificent scene of nature; of hill and dale, wood and water, in striking relief with the azure sky, tipping as it were the summit with its cerulean horizon; but the wants and ravages of man have robbed the locality of its most stately trees, and the gaps are occupied by dwellings dotted and interspersed throughout, and the scene no longer presents that romantic and sublime one which it once presented to the gaze of the traveller. On the 5th of November 1817, hostilities were no sooner commenced, than the ferocious and vindictive character of Bajee Rao's ruthless orders became apparent from the proceedings in every direction. The Residency was plundered and burnt, and of the Resident's library and private apartment not one stone was left upon another; the families and followers of the troops, who fell into the hands of the Marathas, were robbed, maltreated, and frequently mutilated; the gardens were destroyed;

the trees were torn from their roots; and even the graves were dug up. There was a momentary consultation about defending the Residency, but it was instantly abandoned as impracticable, and it was determined to retire to Kirkee,* for which purpose the nature of the ground afforded great facility. It is to be regretted that such a metamorphose should have been completed; for had it continued in its former state, Sungum would have afforded the visitor inexpressible delight. It, however, cannot be said to be robbed of all its beauty: there is a fragment of it still remaining. The splendid bridges which span the river; the picturesque residence of the judge, literally concealed from view by the stately trees which surround it; the beautiful temple (built by a wealthy Gosaeen, by name Hurnamgeer), with the flight of steps which run down to the water's edge, and on which the devout, the indifferent, and the profane, assembled at times to wash and pray; the light forms of the women, clad in various-colored draperies, with their pitchers on their heads or supported against their sides by their arms, make the *tout ensemble* most striking and interesting—especially in the twilight of the evening, or of a moonlight night, when the moon, reflecting her silvery rays in the stream, enhances the beauteous effect of the scenery to a degree almost unimaginable.

The Jamsetjee Bund.

The Bund is intended to dam up the Moota-Moola river, and thus to form a "head" or supply of water for the bazaar and part of the Poona cantonment which is situated on the right bank of the river; the water to be forced up by machinery worked by bullocks through cast-iron pipes six inches in diameter to a height of 105 feet and 8,675 feet in length. The whole was the suggestion of the late Colonel G. Ritso Jervis, of the Bombay Engineers, but it was not until April 1843 that he succeeded in prevailing on Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Knight, and the Government of Bombay, to undertake the work—

* This picturesque little station has ever since been the Head Quarters of a European Cavalry Regiment. It is also the Head Quarters of the Royal Artillery. Great changes have been made here of late. A fine library and a range of new barracks are at present in course of construction, and reflect infinite credit upon Captain Close, R. E., Executive Engineer, Poona and Kirkee, who has been engaged in supervising them late and early since the foundations were laid. He is also, it is said, the architect of the barracks; and the design does him credit in every way. This station will soon be one of the finest in India, and will in all probability become ultimately a very fashionable place of residence.

Sir Jamsetjee having, in a most munificent spirit, agreed to pay all the expenses of construction, if the Government would agree to keep the work in order afterwards, and pay all the expenses for working the machinery. The river at the site of the Bund is 862 feet in width, and the bed of the river is rocky. The Bund is below the City of Poona, and is distant from it one and three quarter miles, and a mile and a half from the "Sungum," or junction of the two rivers Moola and Moota. Below the junction, the river thus formed is designated the Moota-Moola. For about six months in the year this river is subject to freshes, which in the rains rise to 27 feet, and extend to about 1,000 feet in width, rushing with great rapidity. During the remaining six months the river remains low, with only a slight stream.

The original plan of the Bund was a solid wall of rubble stone and lime, to be built across the river: the wall to be 4 feet at top and about 8 feet at bottom, and 16 or 17 feet high; to have a long slope of rough dry stone, coated or protected with a stone and lime pavement, 18 inches thick, both on the up and down stream sides, having a slope of 1 in 12: only one small sluice or race was to be left open on the right bank. A wing-wall, 30 feet in height, to be built along the right bank, in rear of which filters and reservoirs were to be constructed, as also the machinery placed for pumping up the water, which consists of a double set, working two sets of three throw pumps 5 inches in diameter. Either one or both sets can be worked at the same time by 8 or 16 pair of bullocks. The Bund was contracted to be built for 75,000 rupees (£7,500), which sum Sir Jamsetjee immediately paid into the Government treasury, and at the same time ordered the machinery to be sent out from England, and engaged a first class engineer (Mr. Brown) to superintend the erection of the same.

The work of the Bund was not regularly commenced till the month of March 1844; yet, nearly the whole of the centre wall was completed to 8 feet in height, with such portions of the rubble slope as were necessary to protect this part before the rains set in; two openings having been left in the centre of the Bund as an escape. This part of the Bund was reported to leak, but it was then not considered of any great consequence. The work during the monsoon did not sustain much injury. In 1845, the method of filtering, as proposed by Lieutenant Colonel Grant, of the Engineers, was carried out, and a tower built in the centre of the river, from which it was intended that the water should be admitted into the filters through two culverts. Mr. Brown, the Engineer sent from England to superintend the putting up of the machinery, only arrived in March 1845: the work was continued up to the commencement of the monsoon, but it was found impossible to complete the whole of the up and down stream slopes before the first freshes came down on the 19th June 1845, when one hundred feet to the right of, and immediately

adjoining the cut left for the passage of the water, was washed away bodily. This was the first failure, and the damage then sustained was estimated at about 4,000 rupees (£400). The opening in the centre was left purposely to allow of the water running off during the hot weather, and to enable the engineer to fix the machinery: the delay which occurred in closing this part of the work was given as the chief cause of the second failure which took place in 1846. After the first failure, the original plan of the Bund was somewhat altered; a short slope faced with cut stone having been added on the down stream side with the hope of stopping the leakage—the long rubble slope being still retained. The whole work had been thus constructed and completed just as the rains of 1845 set in; but the centre part being still fresh, and the mortar unset, when the freshes came down, this part burst, and a breach of 112 feet in width was carried away. After this, the construction of the work was further remodelled, but again the rains of 1847 caused further damage, and then it became plain, that no down stream slope, constructed of loose rubble stone, with only a thin coating, could stand the great force and rush of the stream.

The work was, after this catastrophe, discontinued till after the rains of 1848, when the re-construction of the Bund was entrusted to Captain T. Studdert, of the Engineers, who received instructions to build a rectangular wall, with four sluices in the centre of the work, the old wall (what remained of it at least) to form part of the work. During the dry season of 1849, the old breach and about two-thirds of the work were completed, and although there was a very heavy monsoon in that year, and the river rose to the height of 27 feet, no damage was sustained. During the next dry season, the remainder of the work was finished, which has also been found to answer completely. The previous failures increased the cost of the work considerably, and as the Government did not think that Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy was bound to advance more money than the 75,000 rupees he had already paid for the work, it was ordered to be completed at the expense of the State.

One great difficulty, which the officers who had previous charge complained of, was the want of a water cement. This difficulty was overcome by Captain Studdert, who used an artificial "puirolana" made from the clay deposit found just above the Bund: this, mixed with the common lime found near to Poona—the whole prepared according to the principle laid down by Captain Margary of the Engineers, and which is very similar to that of Vicat. The hydraulic cement used here appears to be somewhat similar to that used at the suspension bridge across the Dnieper at Rieff in Russia, but which was not known of till the work at Poona had been completed.

The result of this Bund is the fine sheet of water retained during the hot season, which extends nearly four miles, where formerly the river at that season was a mere streamlet.

There are two splendid carriage drives to the Bund, the terrace adjoining which is the favourite resort of an evening of the *élite* of Poona during the "season."

A very handsome white marble slab, on which is the following appropriate inscription, has been set up at the Jamsetjee Bund :—

"The JAMSETJEE BUND and WATER WORKS, constructed at the suggestion, and carried out under the auspices, of Sir JAMSETJEE JEJEEBHOY, Knight, of Bombay, who munificently contributed the sum of Rupees 1,76,050 towards the undertaking, in which the eminent individual whose name it bears had in view the noble and philanthropic design of furnishing to the inhabitants of Poona a never-failing supply of pure water.

"The work was commenced in the Christian year 1844, corresponding with the Shenshai Yezdezerd era 1214 and 15, and completed in 1850, under the superintendence of Captain Thomas Studdert, of the Bombay Engineers.

"The total amount of expenses incurred on this useful and charitable undertaking, was Rupees 2,57,499."

A similar tablet, with the inscription in Guzerattee and Maratha, has also been affixed in the same place.

The Hill-Fort of Singhur.

ON the SW. of Poona, the once formidable fortress of Singhur is seen about fourteen miles distant. This fastness is now in ruins, but it stands on the summit of a high hill, whither people resort, as a sort of sanitarium, for change of air. Singhur is situated on the eastern side of the great Syhadree range, near the point at which the Poorundhur hills branch off into the Deccan. With these hills it only communicates on the east and west by very high, narrow ridges, while on the south and north it presents a huge rugged hill, with an ascent of half a mile, in many parts nearly perpendicular; after arriving at this height, there is an immense craggy precipice of black rock, upwards of forty feet high, and similar to that which has been described as a common feature in the mountains of the Concan and Ghaut Mahta: surmounting the whole is a strong stone wall with towers. The

fort is of a triangular shape, its interior upwards of two miles in circumference, and the exterior presents on all sides the stupendous barrier already mentioned; so that, except by the gates, entrance seems impossible. From the summit, when the atmosphere is clear, is seen to the east the narrow and beautiful valley of the Neera; to the north a great plain, in the fore part of which Poona is a conspicuous object. To the south and west appear boundless masses of rolling mountains, lost in the black clouds or mingled by distance with the sky.

Ere it fell into the hands of the British, it would appear to have exchanged owners some half dozen times. It was first given up to Sivajee, then to Jey Singh, Rajah of Jeypoor, from whom it was retaken by Tanajee Maloosray, the particular friend of Sivajee; it was subsequently reduced, but was retaken by Tanajee by escalade, who was killed on the occasion. Sivajee's joy at this exploit was embittered by the death of his brave officer. The meaning of Singhur is "lion's den"; and he bitterly exclaimed when he heard the news, "the den is taken, but the lion slain; I have gained a fort, but, alas! lost Tanajee Maloosray." It was finally taken by the British early in A.D. 1818. Like the generality of hill forts, the fortress of Singhur was of remarkable strength, although, when besieged by the force under General Pritzler, it neither made a good defence nor stood the assault. Scarcely anything is known of its previous history, except that the late ex-Peishwa Bajee Row, in 1802, fled to it with about seven thousand followers on ascertaining that Jeswunt Row Holkur had gained a complete victory over his own and Scindia's forces in October of that year, in a battle that was fought between Lonee and Hurrupshur, and remained there for three days; and that Babjee Punt Gokla, a Brahmin, was confined there in a wooden cage by order of the Honorable Mountstuart Elphinstone, for the murder, in the early part of November 1817, of two brothers of the name of Vaughan, one of them a Captain in the Madras army, who were taken while travelling between Bombay and Poona, near the village of Tullygaum; and though they made no resistance, were most barbarously hanged under his superintendence. He is said to have been alive up to 1835, when he died. Singhur at one time was studded all over with buildings intended for a variety of purposes, (most of which are scattered about in ruins,) pagodas, tanks, and a tomb in memory of *Ram Raja*. The road to it from Poona has, since 1852, been very much improved, and extended to the foot of the hill, and is now one of the best roads of its kind in this part of the country. In former years, the road to this favourite resort was as bad as cross-roads in Western India usually are, and did not extend within several miles of the foot of the Ghaut. At present, owing to these recent improvements, Singhur is of very easy

access: parties can drive in their own carriages to the very foot of the hill, and hamals can always be procured from a neighbouring village to carry up the ladies and children. The scenery along the road is pleasing and beautiful; and three hours will transport one from the hot winds of Poona to the cool and bracing breeze of the hill fort, where the climate is held by common consent to be as salubrious and invigorating as that of Mahableshwur. The value of Poona, as a station, is certainly very much enhanced by having in its proximity such a healthy and easily approachable locality; and it is to Captain Graham that the public are indebted for the improved state of the Singhur road; he having, by his exertions, obtained a grant from Government for the purpose of repairing the road, and personally superintended the progress of the work. The thanks of the residents at the hill are also due to Captain Morse, Superintendent of Bazaars, for the many excellent footpaths he has made on it, extending in length to nearly five miles. In order to meet the increasing want of accommodation, several houses have been erected, and are daily springing up.

Poorundhur.

This is another of the hill forts in the neighbourhood of the once capital of the Peishwas—Poona. Its situation is on SE. thereof, and is about ten *coss* or twenty miles distant therefrom. It is of an irregular shape, and the highest point of it is upwards of a thousand and seven hundred feet from the plain immediately below. It is properly however a *double* fort, since there are two forts, an upper and lower, situated from three to four hundred feet below the summit. The works, like most of the hill forts in this part of the country, are of perpendicular rock, and frequently weakened, rather than strengthened, by curtains and bastions of masonry, by which the natural defences are generally surmounted. There is no data as to who constructed this fort, but there is no doubt that it is of very ancient date. The ascent is on the NE. side, which leads up to the gateway, and the surrounding scenery is especially pretty, resembling somewhat that of Mahableshwur on a miniature scale.

Poorundhur, like many other fortresses, is celebrated for past political events—such as the removal to it, by Nana Fudnees and Hurry Punt Phurkay, on the 30th of January 1774, five months after the murder of her husband, Narain Rao Peishwa, of Gunga Baee, on pretence of her safety; though it is generally believed that the real motive was to disguise an intention they had formed of eventually exchanging the infant of that lady, who was then re-

ported to be pregnant, in case of its proving a female by substituting a male child, for which purpose several Brahmin women, in a state of pregnancy, were said to have been conveyed into the fort at the same time; the visit to it and settlement by Colonel Upton, of the Bengal army, by command of the Governor General, of the treaty of Poorundhur in 1776; the residence therein, by desire of Nana Fudnees, of the Peishwa Madhoo Row Narraen, then in his 7th year, *cum multus aliis;* and still later, from the circumstance of its having been converted into a sanitarium for sick soldiers—excellent barracks and an hospital, and several private bungalows having been erected, old roads repaired and new ones made; and, finally, from its having been the death-bed scene of His Excellency Lieutenant-General the Right Honorable Lord Frederick FitzClarence, G.C.H., Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Presidency, who departed this life on the morning of Monday the 30th October 1854. To commemorate this last melancholy event, Lady FitzClarence proposed to erect a small church on or near the site of the residence in which his lordship died, which, although full nine years have since elapsed, it is gratifying to know, has at last been commenced with.

On Monday, 28th October 1861, His Excellency Sir William Mansfield laid the first stone of the church. The site, which is a very beautiful one, is near the great gate of the town fort, and not far from the spot where Lord Frederick FitzClarence died. The civil and military residents assembled at 5 P.M.; shortly after which hour the Commander-in-Chief arrived, accompanied by Dr. Hadaway, Inspector General, Major Flood, A. D. C., and the Reverend Mr. Gell. An appropriate Psalm having been sung by the choir, a prayer was offered up by the Chaplain, after which Sir William Mansfield spoke as follows:—

"It gives me great pleasure to find that accident has brought me to this hill, just at the time when it suits the plans of my Reverend friend here to lay the first stone of the church at Poorundhur. It is by the liberality of Government, and the efforts of the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop and the Reverend Mr. Gell, that this church, the erection of which was suggested nearly seven years ago, is now about to be built.

"But though erected chiefly at the expense of Government, it is, I believe at the instance of the widow of the late Lord Frederick FitzClarence, who died within a few yards of this spot, exactly seven years ago, and is to be considered as a memorial of one of my most distinguished predecessors in the command of this army.

"There was no man who loved British soldiers more, or who strove more sincerely to further their interests and promote their efficiency: and if it were possible for him, where he now is, to look down upon us here, and see us

engaged in commencing on the spot, and in memory of him, the erection of a Christian church for the worship of God, it would afford him, we may well conceive, cause for the sincerest gratification and praise. It only remains for me to perform my part in this interesting ceremony."

His Excellency then laid the stone with the usual ceremonies; and after the blessing had been pronounced by the chaplain, the assembly separated.

It is inexplicable why the erection of this memorial church has been so long delayed. It is to be hoped, however, that the noble lady's life will be spared to hear that the most sacred wish of her heart has at last been realized.

Some few years subsequent to the conquest of the country, the buildings within the fort having been abandoned, were allowed, "gradually yet surely," to fall into ruins, and which, until lately, might have been seen scattered in heaps in almost every direction, but which now, for the most part, have been cleared away, the materials having been employed in the construction of the present buildings. The fort, however, still boasts of nine tanks, some of which are in a good state of preservation, and retain water all the year round; two pagodas, one of which is dedicated to the Kagulkur Deo; and a tiger trap, which is in a slope below the gate which forms the SE. limit of the lower fort. There are four other gates besides this one—the entrance gates being remarkable for their ponderous size, and the huge pointed iron nails with which their panels are thickly studded.

There are no data as to who constructed this fort, although there is no doubt that it is of very ancient date. It would appear however, from a copy of a translation of a copy * of what was said to be inscribed on the copper-

---

* "Freehold grants to Essoo Naik, son of Kristnajee Naik Chooha, and Hybut Naik, the son of Venket Naik, and Duttoojee Naik, the son of Ramjee Naik, and Bhyrjee Naik, the son of Sone Naak, from the King of Bedur, in the Arab year 587; on a copper plate it is written, that in the Fort of Poorundhur, at the Sendrey Bastion, they had been going on with the building, but that it was unfinished at this time. The King saw in a vision, that if the eldest son and his wife were given (viz. to be buried in the foundation), the work would prosper—such was the King's dream. The Prince awoke, and getting up, sent for Essoojee Naik Chooha, and explained to him the nature of his dream; upon which Essoojee said, that he would (try to) effect the desired object, and although difficult, that he would accomplish it. Having stated this much, he sent for Bhyre Naak, and related all the particulars (of the dream); hearing which, Bhyre Naak answered, 'I will give my eldest son Nath Naak and my daughter-in-law' (for this purpose). When he said this, Essoojee Naik represented to the King that he (Bhyre Naak) was willing to give his son and daughter-in-law; all was arranged on the 8th of the dark half of Asswin; on the right hand side of the Sendry Bastion, Nath Naak and Deowuknie (his wife) were both buried (alive), after which the works of the Bastion were finished; and the King came from Bedur to Poorundhur to see the fort, and having

plates belonging to the Kolies of Poorundhur, that this hill was converted into a fort during the reign of a King of Bedur, in the Arabic year 587, (corresponding with A.D. 1170-71).

---

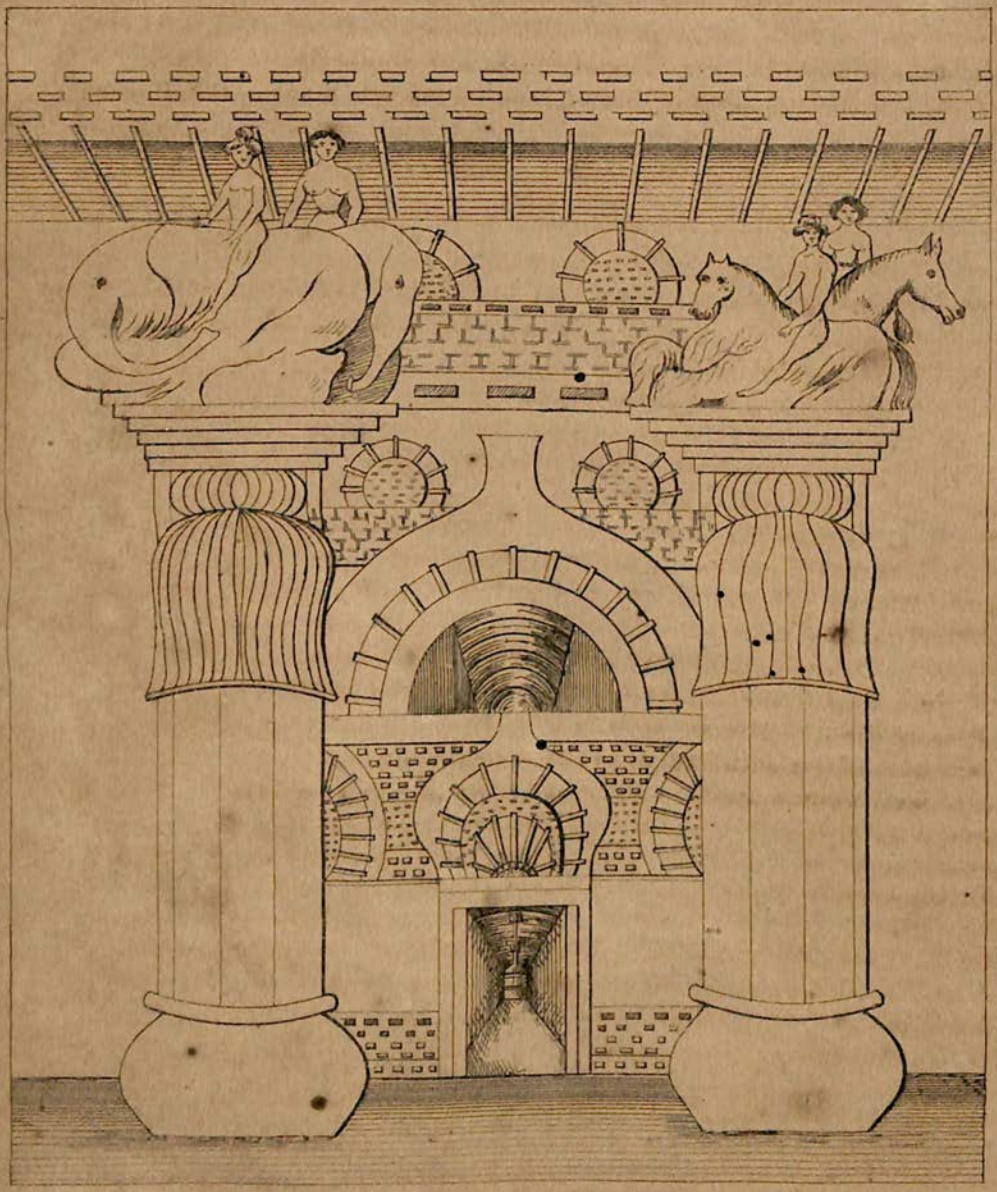
inspected the Sendry Bastion, his Majesty expressed much satisfaction. He granted the fort of Poorundhur entirely to Essoojee Naik and Bhyre Naak. The King gave from the fort of Poorundhur, (205) two hundred and five Hoons, (money of the time, a Hoon being worth about four Rupees); and from the two villages of Nhavies and Bhouggoly, (705) seven hundred and five Hoons, after which the King returned to Bedur; Essoojee Naik accompanied His Majesty. After this, Essoojee Naik and Venkut Naik were both detached against Abdul Shah; having punished the enemy, and obtained victory, they returned to Bedur. The monarch being extremely pleased, he granted to them at Poorundhur money, the Sir Naiky and enam land (freehold) in different villages as follows:—

The Sir Naiky of Rajgur for	Rs,	5,000
The Sir Naiky of Torna fort for	„	4,800
Total Rupees		9,800

Land in the following 17 Villages:—

In Sewry,	7½	Chours.	In Belsur,	2	Chours.
Kherebary,	10	do.	Sassoor,	5	do.
Peemply,	1	do.	Koldury,	2	do.
Chambly,	4½	do.	Pandy,	4½	do.
Keekvy,	1	do.	Singhur Hill,	2	do.
Mhour,	1½	do.	Mandur	1½	do.
Pareenchy,	3½	do.	Wagoly,	3	do.
Narrain,	1½	do.	Khullud,	1½	do.
Soopah,	2	do.			
			Total.....	50½	Chours.

(equal to 6,030 beegahs), and the (9,800) nine thousand eight hundred rupees were granted in freehold, and a deed bestowed about a year afterwards. The King went on a hunting excursion. On this occasion Essoojee Naik Chooha killed a Royal tiger, which he placed before the King; His Majesty being greatly pleased, directed the Naik to ask what present he wanted. 'Having respectfully saluted the King, after a short silence, he represented, that the fort of Poorundhur, and the Sir Naiky and freehold lands of different villages, and Nhavy and Bhouggoly, both these villages, and money were formerly bestowed; 'and all I ask for now is, that the grant above alluded to should be written out on a copper plate; that the tribe of Kolies may alone continue entitled to it, and that no other may interfere with it;' according to this representation, a copperplate had been prepared. The King being well pleased, called both Dummul Punt and Beerbul, and gave them to understand that he had previously given up the fort of Poorundhur and all its stores, &c. to Essoojee Naik Chooha, they were therefore to deliver over all to him, and Beerbul got all the old deeds from Essoojee Naik, and from these prepared that written on the copperplate—'therefore you and your offspring are to enjoy this grant from generation to generation, and he who shall deprive you of the same, must be born of a Hog.'"



PART OF THE PRINCIPAL ENTRANCE TO CAVE AT BEIRA,
24 MILES FROM KIRKEE.

The Caves of Beira.

The caves at Birsa (or as it is called in the map of the Poona collectorate, Beira,) are situated about six miles SW. from Wargam. The plan of the temple resembles Karli, but is neither of so great an extent nor so well executed, and appears more modern. It contains a *Dhagope*;* and its roof, which is ribbed and supported by twenty-six octagonal pillars about ten feet high, seems to have been covered with paintings, which are now, however, so indistinct, that nothing can be decyphered of them. There are four pillars about twenty-five feet high in front, surmounted by a group of horses, bulls, and elephants. The first pillar supports a horse and bull, with a male and female rider; the next, three elephants and one horse, two of the elephants having a male and female rider; the third, three horses and one elephant, a male and female rider being placed on two of the horses; and the fourth pillar is surmounted by two horses bearing a male and female rider. The hall of instruction, which is of an oval shape, has a vaulted roof, and is situated close to the temple. It contains eleven small cells, and over the door of one of them there is an indistinct and partly defaced inscription.

The first inscription, described as executed over the door of a small cell, reads—

नासिकातपासिनोसासथपूनासपुवानाकमाद,

and may be translated—"*By an ascetic of Nasika, resembling the purified Saint* (*Buddha*), *the primeval heavenly great one.*"

The second inscription, said to be over a well, reads—

मतत्यपाकैय्यमनुवयमहारतनस्यसामादनकैय्यदयाधमाउपादमनाकासवात्यकैय,

and may be translated—"*A righteous gift of a small offering to the moving power* (*body*), *the intellectual principle, the cherishing material body, the offspring of Manu, the precious jewel, the supreme heavenly one here.*"

The Caves of Bajah.

The caves of Bajah are situated three miles SE. from the village of Karlee. The principal temple contains a *dhagope* but no sculptures, and has its roof supported by twenty-seven plain pillars. Outside there is a group, executed

---

* This is a stone spire, of an hemispherical form, placed at the extreme end of the arched Buddha caves, and is a type of the corporeal frame of the five elements, or the *Dhyani Buddhas*, being the same as the *Anushthana Sarira*.

108429

in *bas relief*, now much defaced. On both sides of the chapel the hill has been excavated into two stories, corresponding with the height of the temple, and containing the usual halls of instruction, with cells. But the most curious of the sculptures, is a collection of fourteen *dhagopes*, five of which are inside and the others outside the cave. On the first of the latter there is the following inscription :—

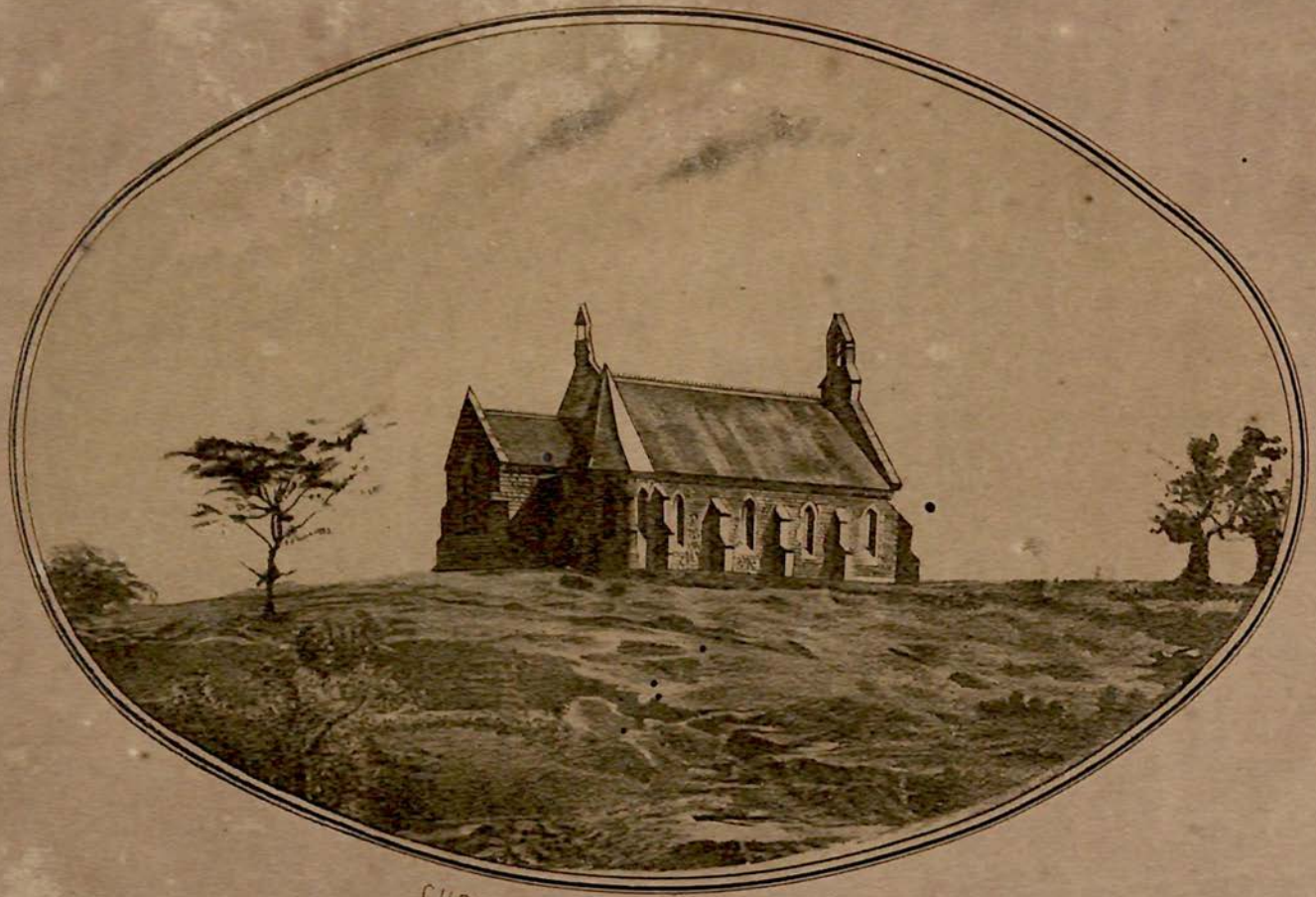
"*The resting places of the preserver dwelling in the elements.*"

The next inscription from the Bajah caves is said to be over a well, and is as follows :—

The righteous gift of a symbol and vehicle of the purified Saka Saka (Shakr) or Indra), the resting place of the giver."

The Temple of Karlee.

This beautiful Boodhist temple is about twelve miles from the Bhore Ghaut, the celebrated pass on the road to Poona from Bombay. In the heights to the north of the village of Karlee, at about a mile distance, a steep pathway leads up to a small platform of about 100 feet in length, formed by cutting into the slope of the hill, in order to get a perpendicular face for the entrance, and by the rubbish taken out of the cave. On the left is a pillar, about twenty-four feet high and eight in diameter, with three lions on the top; there is here also an inscription in an unknown character; the corresponding pillar has been removed, and in its place is a small modern Brahminical temple. A screen which closed in the entrance has been broken; between this and the inner one is a portico, or vestibule, twenty-five feet deep, and the length of the front: at each end or side of this place there is a colossal elephant in *alto-relievo*, with persons on their backs, which, with the other various sculptures on the walls, are boldly carved. The great chamber is grand and striking, being about 126 feet long from the wall which separates it from the vestibule to the further part, and its breadth 46, including the colonnades, formed of a row of pillars running down each side and round the circular end; on the capitals are cut two elephants, with three figures on each, in good preservation. The roof between the columns is very lofty and arched, and is supported by wooden curved beams, two or three inches thick, of teakwood, which is perfectly sound, though it must be at least 900 years old. At the circular end is a *dhagope*, with a square capital on the top of the dome, supporting a mushroom-shaped canopy.



CHRIST CHURCH KHANDALLA.

Khandalla.

KHANDALLA, ere the Ghaut was rendered traversable by wheeled carriages, must, no doubt, have been an insignificant wâree or hamlet, comprising a few wretched huts. The first notice that is found on record of any attempt to improve the means of communication in this direction, dates in the early part of this century.

"The Duke of Wellington, then in command of the British Forces in the Deccan, with that foresight which seems to have been a part of his nature, saw the importance of improved communication with Bombay, and caused the old Bhore Ghaut to be made practicable for artillery, and what was then considered a good military road to be constructed from the head of the Ghaut to Poona. Traces may yet be found of this road the entire distance a little to the south of the line which is now the old post road, and the massive stone ramps which mark the nulla crossings were the work of Wellesley Saheb.

"It is nearly thirty-three years since Sir John Malcolm himself, a friend and companion of the Great Duke, opened the Ghaut for traffic. Some years later we were very proud in Bombay of our mail cart to Poona, the first, and at that time the only one running in India; but it was some years later before the road was generally used for wheeled carriages. Hardly a single cart was met with between Khandalla and Poona; long droves of pack bullocks had still exclusive possession of the road, and probably more carts now pass up and down the Ghaut in a week than were then to be seen on it in a whole year. But the days of mail cart and bullock cart, as well as the brinjaree pack bullocks, are now drawing to a close." Khandalla has since been increasing in size and population, and bids fair, in due course, to become a place of importance. Situated as it is upon the summit of the Bhore Ghaut at an altitude of some 2,000 feet above the level of the sea, almost midway between Bombay and Poona, with the railway passing through it, it certainly at no distant date will become the frequent resort, during the hot months especially, of many of the residents of both Bombay and Poona, who, from circumstances over which they have no control, may be precluded from betaking themselves to the more elevated hill sanitaria. The scenery likewise is beautiful and the climate healthy; and already there is a goodly number of bungalows in it, most of which are picturesquely perched on some of the hills which encircle it. There are also barracks for the accommodation of European soldiers; a traveller's bungalow; a hotel; a dhurumsalla (built by the late Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy) for the accommodation of native travellers; the

railway station and electric telegraph office; a post office; a dispensary; a Roman Catholic chapel, and a Protestant Church. The latter building was completed in January 1863. It is named "Christ Church." "It seats 170 persons in the nave, on open benches. It has a chancel, 20′ by 10′ 6″, out of which a small room or sacristy, 12′ by 4′, leads into the vestry, which is 12 feet in diameter.

"The church is built in the lancet style of pointed architecture, without mouldings or carvings of any kind. Basalt has been used throughout: the mullions, plinths, jambs, coignes, and buttress faces 'clean hewn.' With only a small sum at command, no ornamentation worthy of the style could be attempted; but efforts have been made, by simplicity of design and care in the main outlines, to preserve the feeling of Christian architecture. On the west wall stands a bell-gable, 45 feet from the ground, pierced for one bell, and on the east gable of the nave a sanctus-bell-cot. All the gables are finished with iron terminals, that over the chancel being in the form of a cross.

"The roof, which is crested on the ridge, is pitched at an angle of 72 degrees and is covered with felt, on which, in a layer of cement, are laid single tiles; these, with a few exceptions, have been undisturbed by the heavy fall of rain at Khandalla, of above 300 inches.

"The east window is a triplet, filled with richly stained glass by Messrs. Lavers and Barraud, in memory of Mr. Solomon Tredwell, who, unhappily, died at Khandalla soon after having taken up the great work with which his name will always be associated. Below the centre light, behind the teak reredos, is an aperture for ventilating the chancel. An altar tomb, tabled with a brass (also in memory of that gentleman), which is coming out from England, is to stand against the north wall of the chancel. The roof is open timbered, of teak of good scantling, a simple rendering of the hammer-beam truss; with curved struts, and a dancette cornice of wood. The chancel is paved with tiles (made for this church at Hala near Hydrabad in Sind), in blue and white. Three steps lead up to the communion table, which stands upon a footpace; on the north side stands the Bishop's or celebrant's chair; on the south, a set of sedilia for the assisting ministrants. Seats are provided below the rails for ten singers and a place for an harmonium; the prayer desk is of open wood-work placed at the south-western end of the choir; and the pulpit, also of wood, unpaneled, is reached from it by two steps. A stone credence has been placed in the sill of the north window of the chancel. To the west wall is affixed an alms-box of iron-bound teak. Ventilation is secured by an open trefoil above the double lancet window, in the west wall, and near the south-west door stands a plain octagonal font of stone.

"There is also a graveyard, which is situated at some little distance out of sight of the barracks, but in a most romantic and beautiful spot. It is decorated with a long row of casurina trees, which in a few years' time will have grown into a stately grove; and from this ground you look down at a great height into the valley of the Amba river, which rises close by, and the mouth of which is also visible in the far distance. The forest extends up the heights close to the churchyard wall. Altogether the spot is admirably chosen, if it is any satisfaction to survivors to think that their friends repose in what is perhaps one of the loveliest spots in Western India. It lies on the line of a favourite walk, towards the 'Duke's Nose.'

"Near Khandalla is a waterfall, which flows all the year, and during the monsoon is very full and beautiful. It falls in three or four successive descents down one of the highest precipices ever seen; not less, it is apprehended, than 1,200 feet, into a valley of very awful depth and gloom, through which its stream winds to join the sea, nearly opposite to Tannah, under the name of the Callianee river. On a knoll above this waterfall, and close to the precipice, the late Honorable Mountstuart Elphinstone had a small house where he was wont to pass a part of each cold season."

Corigaum.

'This small and insignificant village, situate on the high road to Ahmednuggur, and appertaining to His Highness Scindiah; is about sixteen miles from Poona, and is remarkable for the last decisive battle that was there fought between the British and the Marathas in A.D. 1818, and which resulted in the complete overthrow of the Peishwaee *ráj*. To perpetuate the names of the gallant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, European and Native, who bravely fell on the occasion, the Government has erected a Monument which stands on the south-west of the said village, the river Bheema coursing intermediately, within an enclosure around which wave mournfully the funereal cypress. It has four inscriptive marble tablets; the inscription that follows fronts the entrance; the opposite tablet has inscribed on it the names of the "killed and wounded," and the other two are inscribed in Marathi and Guzerathi.

This Column

IS ERECTED TO COMMEMORATE THE DEFENCE OF CORIGAUM
BY A DETACHMENT COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN STAUNTON, OF THE BOMBAY
ESTABLISHMENT,
WHICH WAS SURROUNDED ON THE 1ST OF JANUARY 1818
BY THE PEISHWA'S WHOLE ARMY, UNDER HIS PERSONAL COMMAND,
AND WITHSTOOD THROUGHOUT THE DAY A SERIES OF THE MOST OBSTINATE
AND SANGUINARY ASSAULTS OF HIS BEST TROOPS.

Captain Staunton,

UNDER THE MOST APPALLING CIRCUMSTANCES,
PERSEVERED IN HIS DESPERATE RESISTANCE,
AND SECONDED BY THE UNCONQUERABLE SPIRIT OF HIS DETACHMENT,

AT LENGTH ACHIEVED THE SIGNAL DISCOMFITURE OF THE
ENEMY,

AND ACCOMPLISHED ONE OF THE PROUDEST TRIUMPHS
OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN THE EAST.

To perpetuate

THE MEMORY OF THE BRAVE TROOPS,
TO WHOSE HEROIC FIRMNESS AND DEVOTION IT OWES THE GLORY OF THAT DAY,
THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT
HAS DIRECTED THE NAMES OF THEIR CORPS AND OF THE KILLED AND WOUNDED
TO BE INSCRIBED ON THIS MONUMENT.

MDCCCXXII.

The circumstances which led to the engagement are briefly as follows:—

"The British authorities hearing that the Peishwa meditated an attack upon Poona, ordered in, from Seroor, the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Bombay Native Infantry. It was supported by two 6-pounders, attached to which were twenty-four European Artillerymen, belonging to the Madras army. Captain Francis Staunton, of the Bombay army, commanded the force. The little column marched out of Seroor at 8 o'clock in the evening of the 31st

December 1817, and by 10 o'clock of the following morning, the banks of the Bheema were reached, from which Captain Staunton beheld an army of 25,000 Maratha horsemen encamped on the opposite bank of the river. Captain Staunton resolved at once to secure the village, and marched resolutely forward, as if he were about to attack the army in position. Unfortunately, the channel of the Bheema then occupied only a small part of the space between the banks, so that the gallant little band was some fifty or sixty yards from the water. Most of the Peishwa's infantry, about 5,000 in number, had been sent away from Poona; but on the Peishwa descrying our small band of heroes, he issued immediate orders for their recall, and as soon as they joined him, he advanced on three different points, to storm the village with bodies of 600 chosen men at each—Arabs, Gosains, and regular infantry mixed together—setting fire to many of the houses by a continued shower of rockets, and supported by two guns. Although Captain Staunton had selected a commanding position for his guns, the interior of the village had not been sufficiently reconnoitered, and there was a strong square enclosure, having command of most of the streets, which the enemy were in possession of, and whence they could not be dislodged. The village was at once surrounded by horse and foot, and the storming party was supported by fresh troops. All access to the river was speedily cut off, and our people were destitute of provisions. Already fatigued from want of rest, and a long night march, they now began, under a burning sun, without food or water, as trying a struggle as ever was maintained by the British in India. Every foot of ground was disputed; streets were taken and retaken, and more than half of the officers were soon lying wounded or dead. The battle raged, the day wore on, and the sufferings of the wounded became extreme from thirst; the men who continued the conflict also were getting faint, and nearly frantic from the dreadful privation of water. Some of our artillerymen, who bore a very conspicuous part in this glorious defence, proposed to Captain Staunton that we should surrender, provided terms could be obtained. His determined refusal did not satisfy them; and Lieutenant Chisholm, their only Officer, being killed, the enemy rushed upon one of the guns, and took it. And now followed one of those pieces of dash which old England has heard of before and since. The remaining gun was without an officer, Lieutenant Pattinson, the Adjutant of the 2nd Battalion Native Infantry heard we had lost a gun. He was at that moment lying mortally wounded: but he no sooner heard of this mishap, than he got up, called to his Grenadiers once more to follow him, and seizing a musket by the muzzle,* rushed

* Lieutenant Pattinson was a very powerful man, and of gigantic stature, being 6 feet 7 inches high!

into the midst of the Arabs, striking them down right and left, until a second ball through his body completely disabled him. This officer was nobly seconded: the sepoys, thus led, were irresistable; the gun was retaken, and the dead Arabs, literally lying above each other, proved how desperately it had been defended. The heroism of Lieutenant Pattinson at this battle was the salvation of the regiment. On recapturing the gun, Lieutenant Chisholm's body was found close to it, with the head cut off. Of this circumstance Captain Staunton judiciously took advantage, by pointing out the body to the men, and telling them—"Such is the way all will be served who fall, dead or alive, into the hands of the Marathas." Their response was—"We will die to a man!" and the conflict was resumed by all with the most determined valour. And thus the fight continued all day. Captain Staunton had apprised Colonel Burr, the officer commanding at Poona, of the difficulties he laboured under, and an unavailing attempt had been made for his relief. As the night fell, the vigour of the attack relaxed, and a supply of water was procured—and what a luxury it must have been! By 9 o'clock the firing ceased, and the village was evacuated by the Peishwa's troops; but next morning they were still hovering about, and Captain Staunton opened his guns upon them as soon as he could see. The Peishwa, learning that a reinforcement was hastening onwards, drew off, and Captain Staunton, not knowing of the advance of the relief, having reason to believe the enemy would lie in wait for him on the road to Poona, gave out his intention of proceeding thither. However, as soon as it was dark, he moved out of the village with as many of his sick as he could carry, at first in the direction of Poona, then changing his route, he retreated to Seroor, where he arrived next morning, with the loss of 175 killed and wounded, of whom twenty were of the small detachment of Artillery, besides one-third of the Auxiliary Horse being killed, wounded, and missing. The Marathas lost 500 or 600 men. The 2nd Battalion of the 1st Regiment gained their name of "Grenadiers" for their distinguished valour on that occasion—the 1st Battalion having obtained the same distinction for Mangalore previously. The Peishwa frequently expressed his impatience in the fight, and asked his commanders—"Where were now their boast of defeating the English, when they could not overcome one battalion?"

On July 12th 1819 was published at the Presidency the following—

Extract of a Despatch from the Honorable the Court of Directors, dated 6th January 1819.

"Paragraph 1st.—We have perused with great interest your secret despatch of the 22nd January and 4th March 1818, giving cover to copies of a letter from the Honorable Mountstuart Elphinstone, addressed to the Marquis of

Hastings, and dated Corygaum, the 4th of January; of the Division Orders issued by Brigadier General Smith, dated Seroor the 7th of January; of a despatch from Sir Thomas Hislop to the Marquis of Hastings, dated 22nd January, and of a General Order issued by that officer on the 21st January. We have also had under our consideration a letter from the Marquis of Hastings to the Secret Committee, dated 23rd May 1818. In these documents are detailed the particulars of the gallant and successful defence made by Captain Francis F. Staunton, of the 1st Regiment N. I. of your Establishment, at the head of 800 men against the Peishwa's force of 20,000 men, at Corygaum, on the 1st of January 1818, an affair described by Sir Thomas Hislop as one of the most heroic and brilliant achievements ever recorded in the annals of the army.

"2. The heroic valour and enduring fortitude of this detachment entitled it to our admiration and applause. In testimony of the sense which we entertain of the services and gallantry of Captain Staunton, who commanded it, we have resolved to present him with a sword ornamented with a suitable inscription, and also with the sum of five hundred guineas; you will accordingly cause the said sum to be paid to him at the usual rate of exchange.

"3. The sword will be forwarded to you by an early opportunity for the purpose of its being presented in the name of the Company.

"4. These testimonies of our approbation we are the rather induced to afford to Captain Staunton, because the rank of this officer did not allow of his being included in that distribution of the honors of the Military Order of the Bath, with which the Prince Regent* has been graciously pleased to reward the meritorious services of the Company's officers; and in which we have reason to believe Captain Staunton would have been included, had his rank rendered him eligible for that distinction.

"5. Our attention has also been pointedly directed by the Governor General to the gallant conduct of the undermentioned officers, who appear to have survived these brilliant achievements at Corygaum, viz:—

"Lieutenant J. Connellan, 2nd Bat. 1st Regt. B. N. I., Lieutenant J. Jones, 10th Regt. N. I., Lieutenant C. Swanston, 12th Regt. Madras N. I., Assistant Surgeon J. Wylie, Madras Establishment.

"6. We direct you to assure these officers of the high opinion which we entertain of their distinguished services, and you will cause to be conveyed in General Orders, our thanks to the officers, non-commissioned officers and

---

* His Royal Highness George, Prince of Wales—afterwards King George IV.

privates, European and Native, who formed the detachment, for their gallant and meritorious conduct on this memorable occasion."

The General Order of the Presidency publishing the above, directs it to be read at the head of every corps on this Establishment, and explained to the Sepoys of the native regiments; and the introduction observes—

"The Governor in Council will have much satisfaction in conveying to Captain Staunton the sword presented to him by the Honorable Court, when it shall have been received at Bombay; and in the meantime, has only to express his hope, that as that officer has lately been promoted to a Majority in the Grenadier Regiment, he may share in those honors of the Military Order of the Bath, which his want of rank appears to have been the only cause of having been hitherto withheld from him."

ADDENDUM.

THE Biographical notices which form the Addendum to this volume, and which were drawn up, probably by the then Commissioner, shortly after the conquest of the Deccan, are here appended without any material alteration. Nearly half a century has since elapsed, and some of the Chiefs and their descendants have died away, and their titles consequently become extinct; and the only excuse the Compiler would urge for reproducing the said notices is, that the subjects thereof were connected with the late Peishwaee dynasty, in the political proceedings of which they severally took prominent parts, and that therefore they might not prove altogether uninteresting to the reader.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Baramuttykur Joshee.

SADASHEW NAIG and Krishnajee Naig, two Deshust Brahmin brothers, hereditary Joshees or Astrologers of the town of Baramutty, near Punderpoor, joined Sahoojee, Raja of Sattara, at the village of Samkumy in Candeish, in 1708, after he obtained his release from the Moghul camp. Krishnajee Naig, the younger brother, was made treasurer, and his grandson, Tattia Joshee, held the office and perquisites attached to it as a sinecure, besides a pension of Rupees 4,000 from the British Government. The elder brother, Sadashew Naig, retired to Benares, and died after having seen his eldest son Babajee Naig attain great power at Court, and his youngest son Abbajee Naig married to the daughter of Balajee Wishwanath the first Peishwa. This marriage proved childless; but Pandoorung, the eldest son of Baboojee Naig, again married into the Peishwa's family, by espousing a daughter of Raghoba Dada. By this marriage also there was no issue. Pandoorung Row, however, had a son called Baboojee Naig by his second wife, Bugga Byee, of Bowden, near Wye, and who was at Benares, living on the bounty of Amroot Row Saheb, the adopted son of (the late) Raghoba Dada.

The family estates have all lapsed to Government.

Dabharreh (Senaputty).

THE first of this family, Trimbuck Row Dabharreh, derives no dignity from his ancestry; but he was created Senaputty or Commander of the Forces by Sahoojee, Raja of Sattara, and under his auspices the Mokassa of Candeish was first established. The elevation of Balajee Wishwanath to the office of Peishwa, laid the seeds of jealousy in the Senaputty's mind, which grew into open rebellion in the time of his son Bajee Row Peishwa, when, having sustained several defeats, he was eventually completely over-

thrown by Nana Saheb Peishwa, near Tullégaum, after which he never attained any power. The family holds the Turf of Tullégaum, yielding Rupees 25,000 annually: other perquisites to the amount of Rupees 75,000 having been resumed by the late Bajee Row. The father of the present representative of the family was married to a daughter of Dowlut Row Scindia, who died before him.

Dhewdhur, called Dundhurreh.

THE family of Dhewdhur held the situation of Yekbereezy, a Department in the Accountant's Office at Poona. The late Peishwa having intermarried in the family, and Pandoorung Unna, his wife's uncle, becoming a great favourite, he and his relatives received estates which have been continued under the British Government as follows:—

To Pandoorung Unna	Rs.	20,000
To Ramchunder Punt	„	10,000
To Hurry Bhow	„	3,000
To Moroo Punt	„	

Furkia.

THE most distinguished member of this family was Hurry Punt, the son of Balum Bhutt, domestic priest of Baboorow Ram, the grandfather of the celebrated Balajee Junnardhun, commonly called Nana Furnavese. Hurry Punt, although considerably older, was the bosom friend of that eminent man. From the Furnavese family he became the private and confidential Secretary of the great Madhoo Row, under whom he attained considerable military experience, and in the commotion which succeeded that Prince's death, and that of his younger brother Narraen Row Peishwa, he rose to be one of the principal officers of the Maratha Government; so much so, that we find him in command of the army against Raghoba Dada as early as 1774, from which time he appears always to have been considered as the Commander in Chief of the Maratha troops at Poona. He was present, and held a principal command, in the defeat of the English army at Tullégaum in 1781-82, as also when the Maratha troops marched as allies to the British Government in 1791-92 against Seringapatam. Hurry Punt Furkia died in the year 1793-94, and Ramchunder Hurry, called

Baba Furkia, having succeeded to his father's rank in the army, commanded the Poona troops at the battle of Kurda, gained over the Nizam in March 1795, and died in the year 1815. His niece, Tayee Saheb, the daughter of his elder brother Chintamun Hurry, was espoused by Bajee Row Saheb Peishwa in February 1797, two months after his accession to the musnud. The only surviving members of this family after the conquest of the Deccan were, Pandoorung Row, a young man of 25 years of age, who received a pension of Rupees 3,000 annually from the British Government, and Trimbuck Moreshwur, who received a pension of Rupees 500 annually. The youngest son of Hurry Punt was living at Benares with a family, and had become a dependent on the bounty of Venayek Row Saheb, son of Umroot Row, the adopted child of Raghoba Dada.

Koonjur.

The family to which this individual belonged had long enjoyed the privileges of Sur-Patell of 360 villages and towns in the Soobha of Poona, yielding an annual revenue from perquisites of Rupees 2,000. Balojee Koonjur was the first of the family who attained any particular eminence under the Peishwas. He was brought up in the house of the Poorundhurreh as a sort of nimble companion, and was employed in collecting revenue in Candeish in the purgunna of Nusseerabad, but was first brought into notice by becoming a sort of Orderly Officer or Aide-de-Camp, attached to Bajee Row by Purrushram Bhow on his first arrival at Poona, from Jooneir, and recommended himself particularly on one occasion by advancing Rupees 8,000 to Bajee Row when he was in great distress for money for his personal expenses. During the intrigues which succeeded the arrival of Bajee Row at Poona, Balojee Koonjur was actively employed in Scindia's camp by his master, who subsequently conferred on him the office of Minister, with a salary of Rupees 30,000 a year. On the defeat of Bajee Row at Poona in 1802, Balojee Koonjur strongly urged the Peishwa to accept of the alliance of Scindia instead of that of the British Government; and even after the treaty of Bassein, he remained in Dowlut Row Scindia's camp, and was encouraged to hold the same language. But failing in all his views, he continued with Scindia, and remained at Gwalior till a short time before his death, when, coming to the Deccan, he visited Punderpoor on a pilgrimage, and there died in A. D. 1816. His family had been granted a pension of Rupees 10,000 by the British Government, besides the Sur-Patelkee of Poona, and some small villages given to him in Enam by the Punt Suchew.

Limmye (Khasgeewala).

In giving some account of this family, it has been thought necessary to carry the genealogy further back than the individual who first became eminent in it, as another branch has also been allowed to participate in the duties and perquisites of the office, and has also been pensioned.

The first person on whom were imposed the duties of Khasgeewala, was Shewram Punt Limmye, a Brahmin inhabitant of Keeradee, in the Concan. He was selected by Bajee Row Bullal, the second Peishwa, to superintend all his private concerns, under the denomination of Khasgeewala. This comprised not only the domestic disbursements, but also the general control of all disbursements connected with buildings, repairs, construction of gardens, purchase of horses and elephants, &c., &c., &c., as well as all ordinary and extraordinary receipts. The duties were performed by the Limmye family down to the accession of the late Bajee Row in 1719, since which, the office falling into decay, they have had neither duties nor emoluments.

On the accession of the British Government, the family had the distribution of the revenues of the village of Kowtlee, purgunna Mungulwara, for the maintenance of religious establishment by the family in Punderpoor, and they received the following pensions :—

Descendants of Shewram Punt, viz :—

Govind Nilkunt	Rs.	1,000	
Hurry Nilkunt	„	1,000	
			2,000
Rughoonath Pandoorung	„	750	
Shewram Pandoorung	„	750	
			1,500
Jeajee Punt Keshow Row.....	„		2,000
		Annually Rs.	5,500

Mankeshwur.

The first and only person of this family who rose to eminence was Sudashew Punt, commonly called Bhow Mankeshwur. He was a Deshust or Maratha Brahmin, and his family had held for many generations the respectable hereditary office of Deshpandéh of the Purgunna of Temboorny near

Punderpoor. Sudashew Punt Bhow was first brought into notice by Govind Row Pingléh, an officer of the Peishwa's Court, during the administration of Nana Furnavese. In the year 1800, he was appointed Ambassador on the part of Bajee Row at the court of Hydrabad, and was there when the Peishwa was expelled from Poona by Yeshwunt Row Holkur. On Bajee Row's restoration, Sadashew Punt became one of his chief officers of State, and gradually attained to the situation of Prime Minister (with a Surrinjam to the amount of Rupees 1,25,000, annually), which he held with fluctuating influence, according to the humour of his master, till his death, which took place in 1817, just as the war broke out. He left behind no sons, but considerable wealth, which devolved on Luximon Row, a distant relation adopted by his widow on the death of her husband. Luximon Row Mankeshwur held the personal estate of the late Sudashew Punt, in the neighbourhood of Baramutty, valued at an annual income of ..... Rs. 31,000

He had also the village of Temboorny in Enam from the Nizam, valued at Rupees 5,000.....	„	5,000
During his administration also he secured the Deshmookhy of Itta, in the Khanapoor Talooka, in the Sattara territory, worth about Rupees 1,000 annually.....	„	1,000
	Rupees..	37,000

The last representative of the House of Mankeshwur died about 1853-54 childless, when the family estate lapsed to Government.

Peishwa (Pundit Pradhan).

The founder of this family, Balajee, the son of Wishwanath, a Chiplony Brahmin, was the hereditary Deshmookh or Zemindar of Sreewurdhun, on the sea coast of the Southern Concan. He so recommended himself by his ability and energy at the Court of Sattara, that he was nominated to the office of Peishwa in 1717, and was succeeded at his death, in 1720, by his eldest son Bajee Row. Under this Chief the power of the Peishwaship became supreme, and the Raja of Sattara was satisfied to continue a mere pageant. Bajee Row was succeeded in the year 1740, at his death, by Bulwunt Row,

entitled Nana Saheb, during whose rule Sahoojee, the Raja of Sattara, died without issue; and from that date the Peishwa was acknowledged as chief, and exercised the power of sovereign of the Maratha empire. His Lieutenants carried their conquests over the whole of Hindoostan and Guzerat; levied tribute from the Nizam, wrested the empire from the Moghul, and raised contributions in Bengal and conquered Cuttack. Nana Saheb died in 1761, and was succeeded by his second son, Madhoo Row, called "The Great." He died in 1772, at the age of 28, after giving great promise of his talents and vigour. He was succeeded by his younger brother Narraen Row, who was murdered in 1773, in his palace at Poona, in the presence of his uncle Raghoba Dada. Narraen Row was succeeded by his posthumous child Sewaee Madhoo Row, during whose minority the State was ruled by his Minister Nana Furnavese. On the death of Sewaee Madhoo Row in 1795, without children, he was succeeded by his relative Bajee Row,* the eldest son of Raghoba Dada, who, expelled from his dominions after a desperate effort to recover all the power of his ancestors which he had forfeited by his imbecility, abdicated his sovereignty, on the 3rd of June 1818, in favour of the British Government, on condition of receiving annually Rupees 8,00,000. His brother Chimnajee Appa received a pension of Rupees 2,00,000, and Amroot Row, the adopted son of Raghoba Dada, Rupees 7,00,000, which ultimately descended to his son.

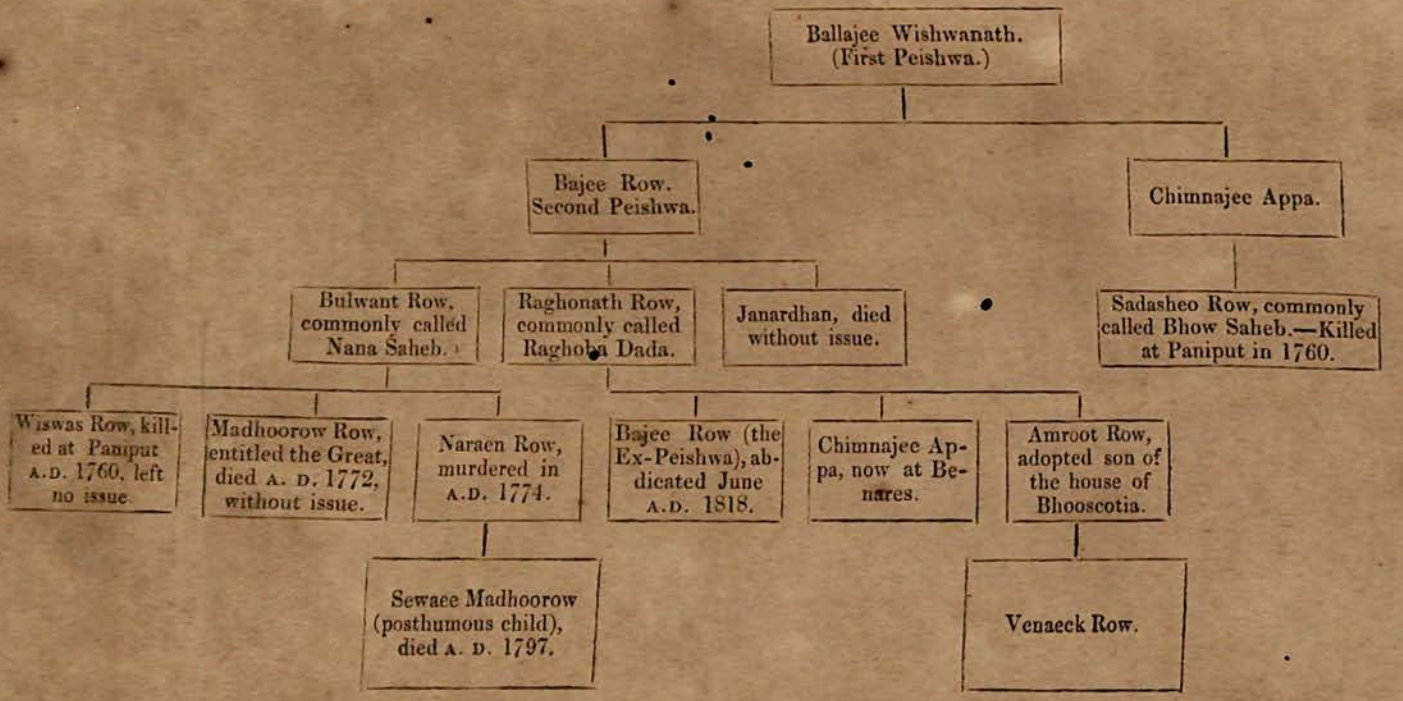
Petthy.

Trimbuckrow Wishwanth, an inhabitant of Googhur in the Southern Concan, first obtained importance by the intermarriage of his sister with Sudashew Punt, commonly called Bhow Saheb, the first cousin of Nana Saheb Peishwa, who was killed at Paniput in 1760. From this connection Trimbuck Row received the appellation of Mama or Uncle in the Peishwa's family. He was distinguished as a soldier, and eventually fell in action while commanding an army in support of the ministerial party in 1774, against Raghoba Dada, near Punderpoor. His descendants gained no eminence in subsequent times; but his lineal descendant Trimbuck Row, who resided in Poona, lived on his private property and a pension of Rupees 2,000 annually from the British Government.

---

* The last of the Peishwas. He died at Bruhmawurt, near Cawnpore, on the 28th of January 1851.

A Genealogical Tree of the Peishwas.


Ballajee Wishwanath. (First Peishwa.)
Bajee Row. Second Peishwa.
Chimnajee Appa.
Bulwant Row, commonly called Nana Saheb.
Raghonath Row, commonly called Raghoba Dada.
Janardhan, died without issue.
Sadasheo Row, commonly called Bhow Saheb.—Killed at Paniput in 1760.
Wiswas Row, killed at Paniput A.D. 1760, left no issue.
Madhoorow Row, entitled the Great, died A. D. 1772, without issue.
Naraen Row, murdered in A.D. 1774.
Bajee Row (the Ex-Peishwa), abdicated June A.D. 1818.
Chimnajee Appa, now at Benares.
Amroot Row, adopted son of the house of Bhooscotia.
Sewaee Madhoorow (posthumous child), died A. D. 1797.
Venaeck Row.

Poorundhurreh.

At the time when Balajee Wishwanath was appointed Peishwa, he nominated one Abajee Punt, a Native of Sassoor, near Poona, to the office of Dewan or Record-keeper of Expenses, and his elder brother Tookoo Punt also shared with him the duties of the office. These duties were transferred to those of the Furnaveses on the accession of the great Madhoo Row, and although the office was not again renewed by any of the Peishwas, yet, during the late reign of Bajee Row Saheb, the descendants of Abajee, commonly called Nana Poorundhurréh, and Aba Poorundhurréh, enjoyed his favour and were treated with much consideration. The former held estates up to the war valued at Rupees 40,000, of which Rupees 15,000 were restored by the British Government; and the latter enjoyed estates, chiefly in the vicinity of Poona, valued at Rupees 60,000, which were continued to him after the war. The descendants of Tookoo Punt, called Witthul Row Poorundhurréh, hold estates valued at Rupees 10,000.

BOMBAY: PRINTED AT THE EDUCATION SOCIETY'S PRESS, BYCULLA.

00108429

Digitized with financial assistance from the
Government of Maharashtra
on 18 July, 2018